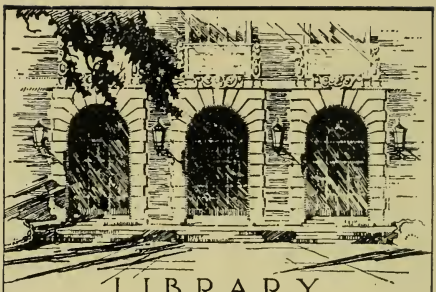
SUIVEZ RAISON
CASE
WESTPORT HOUSE
SHELF

27 F



LIBRARY
OF THE
UNIVERSITY
OF ILLINOIS

823
M47l
v.3

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2009 with funding from
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

http://www.archive.org/details/langhtonpriory03meek

LANGHTON PRIORY.

A NOVEL.

Lane, Darling and Co. Leadenhall-Street.

LANGHTON PRIORY.

A NOVEL.

IN FOUR VOLUMES.

BY

GABRIELLI,

AUTHOR OF

MYSTERIOUS WIFE, MYSTERIOUS HUSBAND, *&c. &c.*

What though Religion's guardians taint her tide!
Pure is the fountain, though the stream flows wide!
Too oft her erring guides her cause betray:
Yet Rage grows impious when it bars her way.

VOL. III.

LONDON:
PRINTED AT THE
Minerva-Press,
FOR LANE, NEWMAN, AND CO.
LEADENHALL-STREET.

1809.

823
M47L
v.3

LANGHTON PRIORY.

CHAP. I.

OUR hero found himself infinitely more comfortably lodged at Highwood than in the oriel chamber at the Priory; and as he was extremely attached to his uncle, saw much to admire in the Countess, and was very much amused by the complaints and droll sallies of his cousin, he was convinced that he should spend his time very agreeably while at Lady Winifred's, as she treated him with marked deference; and was in fact so proud of the relationship, that, partial as she was to her ward, she did not think her deserving of him. He ought

to look higher for a wife, she told the Countess, who was entirely of her opinion; and sincerely wished that her son bore more resemblance to his cousin.

Miss Albany thought the Marquis very handsome; and he was so gay, and evidently so good-tempered, that had he paid her much attention, or endeavoured to flatter her vanity, he would indubitably have won her heart; but he was merely polite, cautiously avoiding every appearance of familiarity, generally addressing his discourse to the Countess or Lady Winifred; to both of whom he was unfashionably attentive, his cousin told him. He replied—"He feared he should never divest himself of some of his Gothic notions;" and Lady Winifred took an early opportunity of expressing her entire approbation of his correct deportment, in the hearing of the more fashionable Dunluce, who declared that he should fancy himself the ghost of Lord Chesterfield, or a second Sir Charles Grandison, were she to bestow such a panegyric upon him.

On

On the Wednesday, the Marquis had the satisfaction of receiving a long letter from his *protegée;* and Alick inclosed a second letter to his brother, in the same frank.

Juliano appeared fully to appreciate the blessings of liberty, and was utterly unable, he declared, to express his gratitude towards his benefactor; since, not content with liberating him from his prison, he had so amply provided for his future wants.—Of his companion, he spoke in the highest terms; and his wife had convinced him that the English were, as he had always supposed them, extremely hospitable; as she had received him as if he had been a relation, and seemed anxious to render him completely comfortable: and concluded by hoping, he should soon hear from his Lordship, who would, he trusted, add to the favours he had already conferred upon him, by putting him in some method to earn his bread, as he was both young and willing; and he should have deemed the hard-

est labour pleasant, when contrasted with the dismal life of ease he led at the Priory; adding, by way of postscript, "That by some singular chance, his companion had taken him to the same inn at Manchester, where he had first met the Padre Benedetto."

Our hero was extremely gratified, to find he had reached London in safety, and soon resolved that he should remain Alick's inmate till he went to town, when he would devise some scheme to induce the Padre to acknowledge who he was, and why he had so unlawfully detained him. Alick had written more at length to his brother, as he presumed the Marquis would like to know every particular, and how he had managed matters; and Donald being of the same opinion, respectfully presented his letter to his Lord, when he retired for the night, which ran as follows:—

"DEAR

" DEAR BROTHER,

" As you desired me to write, the moment we reached town, I am resolved not to miss to-day's post, as I can judge how anxious you are to hear we are safe housed, by my own feelings. When I turned my back upon that dismal Priory, I had no need to urge my companion forward; for joy at being liberated, and the fear he entertained of being pursued, and perhaps retaken, I can suppose, seemed to have given him wings; we were therefore soon on the other side of Chedworth:— fearing, however, that he would flag ere we reached Manchester, though his will was good, I stopped at the first public-house we came to, where I called for a jug of ale, which I put into his hands, making him signs to take a hearty draught. He did as I desired, being very dry, I make no doubt; and I followed his example, thinking this would help us on wonderfully; but unfortunately the poor youth, never

having been accustomed, of late years, he has since given me to understand, to drink any thing but water, the beer got into his head, and he was absolutely tipsy before we had proceeded another mile, which of course rather retarded our progress. By degrees, however, he came round again, and about a quarter before eleven, we reached Manchester: but I ought to have informed you how I disposed of the cloaths which I brought away with me, as I think I improved upon your notion of sinking them in a ditch or pond, where they might have been dragged out again, when least expected. The ladder, I thought, could lead to no discoveries; and it was besides so cumbersome, that I did fling that into the river beyond Chedworth, certain that its weight would carry it to the bottom; but the bundle of cloaths I carried forward; and having lit a large pipe, where we stopped to drink, as if I was fond of smoking, as I went along, I halted in the first private corner we reached, when,

when, making my now sick companion sit down, I contrived, by means of the lighted tobacco, to set fire to the linen, and finally to burn every article in the bundle, as I was convinced that I ran no risk of being remarked, having of course turned out of the road; and no traveller would have ventured near a fire at such a time of night, for fear of encountering a gang of gipsies. This done, we again moved forward, and came in quite brisk at last, though I believe my companion was extremely glad when we reached the inn.

"The waiter knew me again, and immediately shewed us into a large parlour, which, to my great astonishment, my companion seemed to recollect; and he made me understand, while we were preparing for bed, that he had been in the house before, and I thought right to mention the circumstance, as you desired me to be very minute.

"Fortunately there were two inside places disengaged in the coach I came down

by, which I secured; and, after making a tolerable hearty supper, I pressed my companion to retire. As he was once more in such spirits, and seemed so happy, he was insensible of fatigue; and could we have understood each other, I am sure I should have been extremely amused by his remarks; since even the waiter said—'It was a thousand pities he was dumb, he had such an intelligent countenance.'

"We neither of us slept very sound; and pleased enough I was when we were called to take our seats in the coach, as I should have grieved very sincerely to have parted with my companion, who was as alert as myself, and we were the two first to get into the coach. An elderly Quaker, and his son, an invalid, who was going to London, to consult some of the first surgeons there, were our companions; and they were as silent and reserved by choice, as my companion was obliged to be, though he made good use of his eyes, and seemed delighted with the country. Indeed he

bore

bore his journey much better than I had expected, and slept very soundly in the coach.

"We arrived in London between four and five last night, and reached home in good time for tea. Janet and the children were rejoiced to see me, and our new lodger seemed quite comfortable, and to like his apartments very much. My wife has undertaken to provide him with linen, and I have sent for a fashionable taylor for him. Indeed you may depend upon our taking the utmost care of him. I am sure he will soon be able to make himself understood in English. So begging you would present my humble duty to my Lord Marquis, whose commands I shall always be proud to obey,

"I remain, dear brother,

"Your sincere,

"ALEXANDER M'CRUE."

"I give Alick infinite credit for all he

has done," said the Marquis, returning the letter to the gratified Donald.—" His zeal in my *protegée's* cause shall not go unrewarded. I can suppose the poor youth finds himself very comfortable; for the present, I wish him to remain with your brother, to whom I would have you write to that effect. Desire him to provide for all his wants; and, if he wants more money, to apply to you. I shall write to Juliano, and desire him to engage a master to teach him English, as I wish him to be able to converse with those about him, and to take plenty of exercise, tell Alick, that he may be quite stout and hearty, when I reach London, as I then propose to assert his rights, and to have it ascertained to whom he is really indebted for his existence.—Meanwhile, do you, while we remain in the neighbourhood, continue to visit Ashton, that you may learn whether the friar has privately endeavoured to trace Juliano's route; though I think he trusts to the dread he must suppose he may entertain of being

again

again confined, for his not revealing, even to a magistrate, from whence he came; and I wish to lull him into security, that the storm may break upon him at once."

Donald only hoped he should see the old rogue imprisoned in his turn, promising to conform, in every respect, to his Lord's orders, who, on the Thursday morning, at breakfast, mentioned his intention of riding over to the Priory, to enquire after the family.

Lady Winifred observed, "that there had been a very sharp frost during the night; therefore she hoped he would first have his horse frost-shod."

The Marquis did not seem to apprehend there would be any danger; but as she appeared to be seriously interested for the preservation of his neck, he agreed to walk over with Lord Dunluce, who said he would take his gun, as he thought there was some game in those environs; and he presumed he should not be deemed intrusive, were he to trespass upon Mr. Langhton's manor.

"I have his free permission to bring down his partridges and pheasants," said our hero; "and as I never availed myself of the privilege, while I was his inmate, I will try my skill to-day."

"Who knows but they may have a superior flavour to those belonging to heretics," resumed Lord Dunluce; "since the prayers of so pious a family must bring down a benediction upon every thing belonging to them."

Lord Algernon expressed his disapprobation of this speech, in so pointed a manner, that Lady Winifred rather curtailed her lamentations respecting the infidelity of the age, which might be fashionable, but which was extremely alarming, in her opinion. Fearing, however, that they should not reach the Priory before the family dinner-hour, the Marquis proposed their setting out, desiring his groom to follow them with his game-bag, and to bring out a very favourite pointer, which he had brought with him from Scotland, having

having understood that there was a great deal of game upon the Woodville manor. They had not proceeded more than a mile, before our hero killed a brace of birds. Lord Dunluce also fired at the same covey, but was not equally fortunate; and they met with no more birds, which was a source of great vexation to the young sprig of fashion. But just as they entered Chedworth, they perceived a large flight of sparrows hovering over the hedge, which ran by the road-side.

The Marquis advised his cousin to get a shot at them, observing—"That a sparrow pudding was very fine eating, and would be a greater treat than game."

"You are quizzing me, cuz; but hang me if I do not fire amongst them; I think I can bring down a couple of dozen at least, and they will serve to regale the inhabitants of that cottage."

"True; and as I am acquainted with the good folks, I will let them know what a treat they have in store," was the reply;

as

as this was the very cottage where he had found the poor woman in a fit, and whom he had resolved to look in upon before he left Lancashire; lifting up the latch, while Lord Dunluce crept along under the shade of the hedge, to make sure of the birds.

The peasant's family were at dinner, upon bacon and potatoes, but all started upon their feet, the moment they caught sight of their benefactor, who desired them to resume their seats, and finish their meal; he had merely looked in to enquire how the good woman did—"and to renew my acquaintance," he went on, "with this fine little fellow, whom I mean, at a proper age, through the medium of your worthy rector, to apprentice to some trade, as you have two others to assist you in your work, my good friend."

The poor man was profuse in his thanks, blessing God for having raised them up such a friend; entering into several details, after our hero had taken a seat, which were convincing proofs that he was truly deserving

ing of his notice, and made him resolve to extend his bounty to the eldest boy, who was very anxious to be a carpenter, his father said.—Perceiving, however, that he prevented them from finishing their meal, he took his leave, after making the woman another present, and was just stepping over the threshold, when he heard the report of his companion's gun, and hoped he had, as he proposed, brought down at least a dozen sparrows; when the second boy, who had run forward to open the wicket for his Lordship, exclaimed, in a tone of alarm—"Somebody is killed—I heard un squeal."

"Nonsense," cried the mother, who was following her guest out; "'tis only some gentleman a-shooting."

"You have guessed very right; 'tis a cousin of mine, who is gone forward," said the Marquis.

"I am sure I heard some one squall," repeated the boy, which induced our hero to hasten forward; and, upon looking

ing

ing up the road, he saw Lord Dunluce and the groom scrambling through the hedge, which induced him to run towards them, fearful that the boy had not been mistaken. Not that he supposed any one was killed, but he thought it very possible that his cousin had been absurd enough to have endeavoured to alarm somebody—perhaps some of the Langhton family: he therefore soon forced his way through the hedge, and instantly caught sight of Lord Dunluce, supporting Miss Melbourne in his arms, while Miss Murray was holding a smelling-bottle to her nose; the groom looking on, in evident dismay.

"For Heaven's sake, what has happened?" cried our now seriously-alarmed hero.

Miss Murray was still too much agitated to enter into any explanation; and Lord Dunluce, who appeared fully to participate in her alarm, merely faltered out—"I am sure she cannot be wounded—at least not dangerously."

"Why,

"Why, surely, Dunluce, you were not so imprudent as to fire, at the risk of even alarming these ladies," cried our hero.

"Upon my honour, Marquis, I neither saw nor heard them when I did so; and I was at such a distance, that I am confident the shot cannot have done the lady any serious injury. I merely fired across the hedge, at a large flight of birds. Should I unfortunately be mistaken in my expectations, I protest I will load my gun again, and level it at my own head."

The groom, who was in the background when his Lordship fired, declared he had not seen any body, or he should have given his Lordship notice. Indeed the bank was so high, it was next to impossible to have discerned any body on the other side; and he believed his Lordship had not levelled his piece high enough, since he had not seen a single bird fall.

The Marquis was therefore convinced that the young lady was more frightened than hurt, which proved to be the case; though

though we must do her the justice to say, that her terror was by no means affected.

The cottager, who had followed the Marquis, ran for some water and a chair, in which our hero contrived to place her;—and having bathed her temples, and forced her to drink a little water, she soon recovered her senses; and was certainly rather flattered, when she perceived who was so busily employed about her.

Lord Dunluce began to breathe with more freedom, when he saw she was recovering; having had his doubts whether he might not have been arraigned for wilful murder, had she died; and certainly he was not sparing of his self-reproaches; and his excuses were extremely gratifying to Charlotte Melbourne, who soon understood that he was a titled man, and cousin to Lord Endermay, who told him who the ladies were.

Miss Murray had merely been alarmed for her cousin, she said, having been more accustomed to the report of fire-arms; yet

yet she believed they had been in some danger, as some of the shot had even struck her; and she had at first feared that Charlotte had been seriously wounded.

Miss Melbourne was not, however, sensible of having sustained any injury;—though, upon examining her pelisse, she pointed out three shot-holes to the gentlemen, which induced the Marquis to declare that they had had a very narrow escape, which he hoped would prove a serious caution to his cousin, who declared that he would never again fire a gun by the side of a hedge, even at the certainty of bringing down his bird.

Miss Melbourne perfectly acquitted him of any murderous intentions, she gaily replied; and the gentlemen having delivered their guns to the groom, walked home with the ladies, Lord Dunluce taking upon himself to support the fair Charlotte. Our hero therefore offered his arm to Miss Murray, whom he greatly preferred, though he

was

was not, as his cousin soon declared himself, at all heart-stricken.

During their walk, the ladies said, that they were going to William Meadows, when they came in contact with the contents of Lord Dunluce's gun; and their advancing having made the birds return, was the occasion of his having fired in so unfortunate a direction. They soon, however, reached the rectory; the Doctor and Mrs. Murray were surprised at their quick return, but presumed they had met the young gentlemen coming to the rectory, and had, in consequence, retraced their steps. An explanation of course ensued; and as they had evidently escaped unhurt, the Doctor affected to laugh at their past danger.

The holes in the cloth pelisse, he averred, had been eaten by a moth; and even when Charlotte produced a small shot, which she declared had lodged in her shoe-tie, he was convinced she had caught it in passing

too

too near the bottle-rack, where he had seen some lying that very morning; therefore, after spending half an hour very agreeably, the young men took their leave, and proceeded to the Priory; Lord Dunluce declaring himself to be violently in love with the fascinating Charlotte Melbourne. Miss Murray was a fine girl, but extremely insipid—no life—no air of fashion.

"All that may be; but she will make the best wife," rejoined the Marquis.

"For a country curate, I agree; but her cousin would appear to advantage in the first circles. If Hannah Albany had been half as handsome, she should long since have been Lady Dunluce."

"Would you then have married in your cradle?" asked the diverted Marquis.

"Nonsense; I am turned of twenty, and my father is an advocate for early marriages. Your's was but just of age when he

he married your mother: but you mean to grow grey before you think of matrimony. Now I am anxious to transmit my family honours to posterity; and here you, who are in your five-and-twentieth year, are yet a bachelor."

"And very probably may be so at the expiration of five years more," rejoined our laughing hero: "but here is the Priory portal; and I own, since your heart is composed of such inflammable materials, I am very glad you have seen Rosalie with indifference, as there would have been many obstacles to have impeded your passion in that quarter. Now I think you may look forward with hope to an union with Miss Melbourne. Many Peers have married bankers daughters; and her family is very respectable. She will also have a very good fortune, I make no doubt:—therefore, as you are in such haste to part with your liberty, open your mind to your father at once; for I long to wish you joy."

"You enjoy laughing at me, Marquis.—Some time or other I shall see you in love."

The opening of the Priory gates prevented our hero from replying; and they were ushered into the oriel parlour, where the family generally sat, who were all extremely happy to see the Marquis, and very polite to his companion.

"I have not had a game at chess since your departure, my Lord," said the old gentleman.

Lady William declared the evenings had appeared unusually long, since she had been deprived of his agreeable conversation. Rosalie, whose eyes had brightened upon his entrance, spoke to the same effect; and the Father and Belthorpe were not behind hand, in point of civility.

Lord Dunluce having expressed a wish to explore the beauties of the garden, Algernon accompanied him out; and the Marquis seized the opportunity to inquire whether

whether they had obtained any tidings of the fugitive?

"Not the slightest intelligence," said Mr. Langhton, "which is certainly very extraordinary."

The Padre groaned, rather than sighed, while he declared that he had not enjoyed an hour's sound repose since the poor young fellow had been missing.

This our hero readily believed; but Lord Dunluce having returned, as it grew late, he took his leave, having delivered Lady Winifred's compliments to Lady William and her daughter, and a request that they would henceforth visit her *sans ceremonie*, as she should them.

Mr. Langhton hoped they should see him again, and again, while he remained in Lancashire; and really appeared so sincerely attached to him, that our hero began to feel something like esteem for the old gentleman, and to place most of his errors to the score of Father Bened tto, whom

whom he hoped would not be able to make such an absolute puppet of him in future.

Having reached Highwood before three o'clock, they retired to dress; and when they met the family at dinner, Lady Winifred hoped the Marquis had had some tolerable sport.

"I had like to have brought down a bird of Paradise, aunt," obtruded Lord Dunluce.

"I hope you would not have been so wanton," replied her Ladyship, understanding him in the literal sense.

He was highly amused at having led her into an error, but soon explained his meaning. The Countess was shocked at the want of thought he had displayed; and Lady Winifred declared she would have every gun in the house locked up during his stay.

The Earl commended the notion, as far as it concerned his son, who was certainly not fit to be intrusted with such dangerous

weapons, since it would have been a poor plea to have said he was not aware that the ladies were so near, had he blinded or otherwise disfigured them.

"Had I been so unfortunate, Sir, I would immediately have made the greatest sufferer an offer of my hand."

"That would truly have been making bad worse," exclaimed Lady Winifred.

"At least the lady would have done so, had she, after such a proof of his want of thought, placed her happiness in his keeping," resumed the Earl.

"Had she been blind, my Lord, you know she might not have seen his follies," urged the Countess.

"Agreed; but I am afraid it would have eventually proved the blind leading the blind."

Lady Winifred had seen Dr. Murray in mixed companies, and had always heard him highly spoken of.—Inquiring of our hero who Miss Melbourne was—"A London banker's daughter, he had been told,"

he

he replied, "who had married Dr. Murray's sister."

"Then let her be ever so handsome, she is a girl of no family, I find," rejoined her Ladyship.

The Earl said—"Bankers ranked next to nobility in the scale of society; and there were some Lords, whose fortunes, if not their names, were in the firms of some such houses, and many Baronets were in that line; their daughters, therefore, generally married Patricians," instancing several who had married men of the first rank; adding, "and there have been bankers who have rejected the offers of Peers for their daughters."

As Lady Winifred could not contradict these assertions, she soon dropped the subject, fearing that the Earl would induce either her favourite Marquis, or the volatile Viscount, to seek a farther intimacy with Miss Melbourne, who would, in her opinion, be a very unfit match for either, but particularly for the Marquis of Endermay.

CHAP. II.

The following morning, while the family at Highwood were still at breakfast, Algernon Albany was announced, and shewn in. Having paid his compliments to the ladies, and hoped the gentlemen were well, he told our hero, styling him brother, very contrary to Lady Winifred's notions of etiquette, and of the respect due to her favourite, that his grandfather had sent him over to request he (Lord Endermay) would do him the honour to ride over to the Priory that morning, as he wished to consult him respecting something.—"He did not tell me what," he went on; "so I cannot tell you, brother; and my mother and Rose

Rose bid me say, that they hoped Lady Winifred would suffer you to dine with us, as we are all *à-la-mort*, as Madame de La Tour says, for the want of your company—But I had like to have forgotten half my errand; here is a note from my mother to your Ladyship," presenting one to Lady Winifred.—" Rose had written one to you, brother, but I came away without it."

" That was being very ungallant, cousin," said Lord Dunluce.

While Lady Winifred said—" Much as I enjoy your society, Marquis, I cannot object to your complying with Mr. Langhton's earnest request to-day; but I beg you would tell him that I cannot spare you so frequently, as he would doubtless wish to see you, since I have hardly made acquaintance with you yet myself."

" Then I will be going," cried the young rustic, " as my mother will be very impatient for my return; and I must call at Hilton before I go home," giving the Marquis a knowing look; who sent his com-

pliments to Mr. Langhton and Lady William, promising to be at the Priory by two o'clock. Algernon therefore departed in high glee.

"Have you ever, Marquis, seen those French women who reside at Hilton?" asked Lady Winifred, when Algernon was gone.

"Some few times, Madam; they always spend their Sundays at the Priory; and I once called at their cottage with my brother."

"Are they women of family?" she enquired.

"They say they are," relating the story his brother had told him respecting them.

"But I wish to hear your opinion of them, Marquis," she resumed.

"Why, then, to be very honest, I rather think, like many more of their countrymen and women, that they have been imposing upon the credulity of John Bull. Lady William thinks the same; but they were highly recommended to her father; there-

fore

fore she is coolly civil to them, and so was I. Algernon is a favourite of Madame."

"And the daughter is probably a favourite of his," continued her Ladyship.

"I hardly know, but I must do Madame the justice to declare, that she does not encourage any intimacy between them; and I am convinced that neither Mr. Langhton nor his confessor would ever forgive his making her his wife."

"I am glad to hear it; such a girl would be a very improper match for any member of the Albany family."

The Marquis agreed that he should dislike his brother marrying a foreigner:—and soon after one he set out for the Priory; Lord Dunluce bearing him company, as he wished to enquire after Miss Melbourne and Miss Murray, he said. The Earl made no objection, not being aware that his volatile son had declared himself violently in love with this said banker's daughter: and at the Priory gates the cousins separated, the Marquis sending his horses and groom

to the Nag's Head, ordering the latter to be in attendance at seven.

The Langhton family were extremely happy to see him; and after the first compliments, and they had expressed their thanks for his having so kindly acceded to their request to see him, Mr. Langhton told him that he wished to consult him first respecting the propriety of inviting Lady Winifred and her guests to dine with them the ensuing week; and secondly, whether it would not be better to advertise the unfortunate Juliano, as he could not divest himself of the dread of his having fallen into bad hands. The Father was rather averse to the measure, he said, as tending to make the circumstance very public;—but he (Mr. Langhton) thought, that if he were advertised as a lunatic escaped from his keeper and friends, it might convince the world in general that they had not, at least in their own opinion, acted illegally.

The Marquis hardly required this proof of

of Mr. Langhton's having been entirely the dupe of his confessor; and certainly, had he not known which way the fugitive was gone, he should have advised his having been advertised in the first instance. But as matters now stood, he did not conceive it would answer any good purpose, since it did not seem likely to induce the confessor to declare who he really was. He therefore objected to the measure, under the plea of near a week having elapsed since his departure, which must, in many respects, render it very nugatory; and it might, besides, render extremely public, what, for the Father's sake, he thought could not be kept too private; requesting that Mr. Langhton would apply to him, wherever he might be, should the fugitive ever appear inclined to attack them legally, upon the plea of having been wrongfully confined.

"That was very unlikely," the monk observed.—"Where should he find money to attack them in law?"

"I thought you rested your greatest security upon his being insane, Father," replied the Marquis; "since, if he is in his right senses, he may apply for redress *in forma pauperis;* for a stranger in England is sure to meet with attention; and as he has not yet been heard of, it is very probable that he has fallen in with some good Samaritan, who has taken pity on him; for had he been decidedly insane, he must have been seen or heard of in this neighbourhood:—but did his malady incline him to melancholy, or to senseless raving?"

"He was very melancholy, my Lord, but generally talked very incoherently;—yet he certainly may have deceived some one into a belief that he is sane. Still I can hardly suppose that any people of sense would encourage him in any wild projects that he may form; and, as I said before, I am confident he neither knew the name of this seat, nor of the county, nor even that of Mr. Langhton."

"Possibly.

"Possibly he may still suppose himself in Italy," rejoined the Marquis.

The monk, anxious to drop the subject, said—"It was very possible;" and the appearance of the butler effectually broke in upon the conversation. Mr. Belthorpe did not make his appearance till the party were all seated at table, having been to confess a poor Irish Catholic labourer, at a village he mentioned, whom he feared would not recover.

Mr. Langhton hoped he had provided for all his immediate wants, and was answered in the affirmative; after which the discourse became very general; and it was settled that Lady William should drive over to Highwood the next day, to invite the party assembled there to dine at the Priory the ensuing week. It was a compliment due to them; and her Ladyship was extremely anxious, she said, to shew every mark of respect to every member of the Albany family.

The Father thought she was perfectly

right, as they were so nearly related to her children, and so anxious to bring them forward in the world. While he was speaking, Ashton brought in a note, which he put into his hands, saying—"It came from Hilton, Father; a little boy brought it, but did not wait for an answer."

The monk approached one of the windows, and having perused his missive, exclaimed, in a tone of alarm—"Poor Madame de La Tour is taken ill, and very suddenly, it should seem, from what her daughter writes, as she was out this morning, when she was seized with such dreadful spasms in the stomach, that Pauline has been quite alarmed, as a violent reaching ensued, which still continued when she dispatched this letter. I will therefore hasten to her, as she is extremely anxious to see me, having an opinion that I can prescribe more efficaciously for her complaint than any village apothecary."

"I am sure the Marquis will excuse you, Father," said Mr. Langhton; "therefore hasten

hasten to her; and if you conceive her to be in any danger, send over to Manchester for a physician. Ring the bell, Algernon, and give orders for the carriage."

The Father prevented his doing so, saying he should prefer walking, the weather was so fine. If, however, he did not return before eight o'clock, why he should like to have the carriage come for him;—else, as there was a moon, and he was well acquainted with the road, he had rather return as he went, never having been partial to the movement of a coach—hurrying away, taking with him some trifles, which he hoped would be of service to the invalid.

The ladies soon left the gentlemen to themselves; but as Mr. Langhton was even abstemious with respect to liquor, they soon followed them into the great parlour; and our hero, having approached one of the windows, his brother, who had followed him, whispered—"I wonder what will become

come of Pauline, if the old woman should tip off the perch."

"Possibly you may feel inclined to take her under your protection," was the reply, in the same tone.

Algernon smiled, saying—"Faith, I should have no objection, if grandfather was not against it; but I dare say he would disinherit me, and the Padre would excommunicate me, if they even suspected I had such a charitable action in contemplation; so I must mind my hits; for Father Benny cannot bear to see me speaking to her alone: however, should Madame tip the bucket, possibly she would be removed hither, and then she would be under my mother's eye—besides, under this sacred roof, as old Benny styles it, I must, per force, be good."

The Marquis was not so sure of that;—but Lady William having addressed him, the conversation became general, till after tea, when the Marquis talked of going.—

Rosalie

Rosalie was sure it was very early; and Algernon thought he had better stay, till Father Benedetto returned, when he would hear how Madame was; adding—"The Padre is an excellent physician; so if you should be taken poorly while you remain in this neighbourhood, you had better send for him, than for any of the doctors hereabouts."

Lady William confirmed what her son had advanced, with respect to the friar's skill in physic; and our hero thought they were very fortunate in having so able an assistant always at hand: but the bell having rung for vespers, knowing his horses were in waiting, he made his parting bow. Algernon and Belthorpe accompanied him to the great door, the latter expressing his astonishment at the Father having made it so late; but presumed, now he meant to wait for the carriage.

"I am sure Madame is very bad," rejoined his pupil; "and I think you will be summoned next to administer spiritual comfort

fort to her; for I never knew the Father stay out so late before, since I can remember; and I have served more than three apprenticeships at the Priory; therefore I think I ought to be out of my time. What say you, brother?"

"I cannot stay to debate the point," was the rejoinder, mounting his horse; and having bid the tutor and pupil good night, he rode out of the court.

The evening was very fine, and the moon shone very bright; but as our hero never put his horse out of a foot's pace till he had felt his legs, he proceeded very slowly for about a quarter of a mile, being shaded from the North wind by the hedge, under cover of which Lord Dunluce had pursued the flight of sparrows, when he came to a more open space, and from whence he could see to some distance across the fields leading from Hilton to the Priory; and not having distinguished the friar advancing, he was mending his pace, when he thought he heard some one crying out, as if in distress.

tress.—Checking his horse, he called to his groom, to enquire whether he had heard any thing at a distance; but before the man could reply, a second cry, infinitely more piercing and distinct than the first, assailed our hero's ears, which the groom affirmed was some one screaming " Help ! murder !"

There was no means of reaching the spot from whence the screams seemed to proceed, but by riding round; and neither master nor man knew where the gate, that led into the Priory, was situated; and when they reached it, it might be fastened, and too high to leap. The Marquis therefore sprung off his horse, and the next moment over a low place in the hedge, when he heard the cries repeated, though in a fainter tone.

His groom, seeing him run forward, called out—" For God's sake, stop, my Lord ! and suffer me to accompany you !" but he did not even hear his petition—the wind sitting directly contrary, which brought

brought with it the sound of the voice which had so much alarmed him, which seemed to proceed from a stile in an oblique direction, about three hundred yards from where he had crossed the hedge, and in the direct road to Hilton; when it suddenly occurred to him, as he was hastening towards the spot, that Donald had told him many people in Chedworth would rejoice at having an opportunity to drag the Father through a horse-pond, and that he might be undergoing some such discipline: his fears, therefore, rather subsided, though he continued to run forward, and had nearly reached the half way, when he plainly distinguished two men in the very act of falling to the ground in a sort of scuffle, which induced him to shout as loud as he could, while he endeavoured to mend his pace. As he had expected, the sound of his voice, and the threat he had uttered, induced one of the men, the aggressor, no doubt, to rise and take to his heels, in the opposite direction, which made him regret having

having alarmed him—since, as there was but one, he might have secured the rascal, without reflecting that he was very ill prepared to act even upon the defensive. His having, however, prudently made himself heard so *apropos*, was certainly the means of preserving the life of Father Benedetto, whom he found extended all his length in the foot-path, and who, the moment he perceived who had thus come to his assistance, exclaimed, in a faint agitated voice—"Oh, Marquis! I believe the villain has done for me; but should I survive the wounds he has given me, you will have been the means of preserving my short remnant of life. Indeed, but for your timely and humane interference, I should have been killed upon the spot; for I could no longer defend myself, and the wretch's arm was raised to give me the finishing stroke, when you called out, and induced him to seek his safety in flight."

Hardly attending to what the old man said, the Marquis was anxious to raise him from

from the ground, enquiring where he was wounded, and by what weapon? but before he could reply, our hero perceived the blood issuing from his left side, which made him presume that the blow had been aimed at his heart, and of course with a design to terminate his existence.

The idea was so shocking, that he was undecided, whether to remain with the terrified being, or to pursue the murderer; but being out of breath, and the wretch having got out of sight, he thought it most prudent to stay where he was; and he soon had the satisfaction of seeing his groom, who had made his way into the field, galloping towards the corner the villain had made for; but having reached the hedge, he found it would be useless to attempt pursuing the wretch on horseback; and he could not leave the horses while he followed him on foot, though he had armed himself with a hedge-stake; he therefore galloped back to his master, to take his farther directions. When, however,

ever, he saw who his Lord had thus rescued, at the risk of his own life, he would, had he dared, have blamed him for having acted so rashly, and felt much less inclined to risk his own safety, in pursuing the robber.

The Marquis told him, he must assist him in getting the wounded man to the Priory, desiring him to support him, as he sat upon the ground, while he endeavoured to stop the blood, which continued to flow from his side, which he, in some respects, effected with his pocket-handkerchief. Before, however, he had succeeded, the poor old man was nearly speechless, owing to the alarm he had undergone, and the effusion of blood. He made shift, however, to point out another wound upon his shoulder, but which appearing trifling, in comparison to the one in his side, our hero was very anxious to get him home, for fear he should die under his hands; and he seemed equally anxious to reach the Priory, hoping he should be able to walk thither.

Thinking, however, it might be easier for

for his Lord, the groom proposed mounting him upon his horse; he would get up behind, to support him; and if the Marquis would please to take the bridle in his hand when he was mounted, he thought they might manage very well.

Our hero being of the same opinion, they led the poor wretch between them to the stile; and having, by degrees, seated him in the saddle, the groom, as agreed upon, mounted behind to hold him up, our hero leading the horse and his own, not chusing to ride, for fear the old man should faint, or the groom be unable to keep him from falling; and in this manner they reached the portal. Fortunately the portress never went to chapel of an evening;—but when she saw the holy monk return in such a deplorable state, and apparently more dead than alive, she crossed herself repeatedly, calling upon all the saints, whose names she could recollect, to preserve this worthy man, who was her confessor, and to whom she was infinitely more

attached

attached than many of the other servants were.

The Marquis having, however, assisted in getting the poor wretch into the house, made the old woman precede them into the parlour with her light; and having seated the sufferer in one of the large arm chairs, he desired her to go into the chapel, and, without entering into any details, or telling Mr. Langhton that the friar was wounded, to inform him that he (the Marquis of Endermay) was returned, and must see him immediately.

Mr. Langhton was never disturbed at his devotions; still, as the Marquis of Endermay gave her the order, and as the friar did not seem to have an hour to live, she ventured to do as he desired; and she certainly, by her half words, and continued ejaculations, succeeded in alarming not only the whole family, but the whole household, who all feared some serious accident had befallen their favourite Marquis. Even Mr. Langhton therefore felt his heart lighter,

lighter, when he perceived who had been the sufferer; though he was really very much shocked to see the friar groaning, and gasping for breath, as he reclined upon our hero's shoulder, who briefly explained what had befallen him.

Lady William sent the housekeeper for a cordial, which she made the old man swallow; while the no less compassionate Rosalie held vinegar to his nose, and bathed his temples. Algernon and Belthorpe could only grieve and wonder, and wonder and grieve, without exerting themselves in the slightest degree, either to assist or support the sufferer.

"Send off immediately for the nearest surgeon," cried the Marquis.—"More advice may be called in afterwards, but no time ought to be lost in calling in medical aid."

A servant was immediately dispatched for Dr. or rather Mr. Spencer, the village Esculapius; and as the cordial had greatly revived the wounded man, he was able to inform

inform the surrounding group how he had met with his misfortune, as the Marquis had merely been able to tell them what had induced him to go to his assistance, where he had found him, and what he had said when he came up to him.

Having, however, called down a blessing upon his preserver, whom he was convinced had saved his life, he told them that Madame having fortunately dropped asleep, in consequence of taking a cordial draught, which her daughter had administered to her, before he reached Hilton, he had chosen to await her waking, which she had not done till past six, when she had declared herself much better, but was of course extremely low. Having, however, given some orders to Pauline, he set off home, where he hoped to have arrived before vespers; and while crossing the stile leading into Chedworth field, a man rushed from under the adjoining hedge, and gave him, as he feared, his death-wound, pointing to his left side; "and it might have been

better had he killed me at once," he continued, "than if I am doomed to linger for months in excruciating torture."

"Surely, Father, you would not venture to arraign the decrees of Omnipotence," cried the infinitely more pious Mr. Langhton; "had you died in the field, you would have been deprived the benefit of participating in the last rites of the mother church."

"Right, right, my dear patron; how dare I, miserable sinner, repine at having been allowed time to settle my affairs!"

"I trust you will yet do very well, Father," said the Marquis; "but can you describe the man who so basely assaulted you? since proper measures ought to be pursued to have him secured."

"His face I could not see," he faltered out, "as he had a black crape before it;—but he must have been in the prime of life, by his strength and activity, though I closed with him, and had a long scuffle; during which my cries for assistance reached

your

your Lordship's ears; and regardless of personal danger, you rushed forward to save me; but before you came up, the wretch had wounded me again in the shoulder; and he would certainly have put the finishing stroke to his bloody work, if your voice and threats had not alarmed him for his own safety."

"He never attempted to rob you, it should seem," rejoined the Marquis;—"therefore he must have intended to murder you. Have you any enemy that you know of? or rather, do you suspect any one?—since this is no time for trifling; and you will be doing an act of justice, to deliver up such a monster to the power of the civil magistrates."

"God forgive me, if I judge him wrongfully; but I own, since it is well known that all insane people are both cunning and malicious, I fear my poor nephew has thus endeavoured to wreak his revenge upon me."

"'Tis very possible," cried Mr. Langhton.

"Oh, 'tis a clear case," said Belthorpe.

Algernon was of their opinion, as he had read of many mad folks having murdered their dearest friends.

The Marquis was not of their opinion, he said; alledging that a madman would have acted very differently, admitting, for a moment, that a person, situated as his late prisoner must have been, when he made his escape from the Priory, pennyless, and a stranger to the language of the country, could have purchased a dagger or knife, have provided himself with a crape mask, and, above all, have remained for so many days concealed in the neighbourhood; "the idea was too absurd," he said, "to be even credited for a moment. What madman could have formed such a plan? Besides, he would not have wished to conceal his features, nor to have made his escape, as he would have been unconscious of his having endangered his own life."

Mr.

Mr. Langhton declared himself a convert to the Marquis's way of thinking; so did Algernon; and Belthorpe chose to go with the stream. The Father also hoped he had been mistaken, though he knew not whom else to suspect. Now our hero thought it most probably was the monk who had placed the unfortunate Juliano under his care, who had thus endeavoured to silence his accomplice; sincerely wishing that he had secured the wretch, who might have discovered why the poor youth had been so strictly immured; he was therefore extremely anxious to have an immediate search made for the assassin.

The Father was, however, so extremely averse to the measure, affecting still to fear that it was his wretched nephew, that our hero was convinced no very active measures would be taken to discover the culprit; except he exerted himself to that effect, as he could not describe his person, and the friar would certainly not swear to him,

though he should be taken, he feared he must let the rascal escape.

The arrival of Mr. Spencer broke in upon his reflections; and as he desired his patient might be undressed and conveyed to bed, before he ventured to probe his wounds, the monk was carried up stairs, followed by Mr. Langhton and our hero, who chose to be present when the medical man gave in his report—Algernon and Belthorpe remaining below with the ladies. Having examined the hurts the monk had received, Mr. Spencer declared they were neither of them dangerous, though the one on the left side seemed to have been given with heart and good-will; but the knife having been directed about three inches too high, it had missed the heart; and having come in contact with the breast-bone, it had taken a contrary, as well as a slanting direction; he would therefore be answerable for making a perfect cure of both, in less than a month.

These

These assurances greatly raised the Father's spirits, though he affected to be very resigned, and repeatedly requested that the assassin might not be pursued, since he could not swear to his person; nor should he ever enjoy a moment's peace, were a fellow-creature to be brought to the gallows upon his account. Leaving him, however, to the care of the surgeon, our hero and Mr. Langhton returned to the ladies, to give in their report.

Algernon secretly wished the assassin had taken better aim; and notwithstanding Belthorpe affected to rejoice, our hero fancied that he would have been still more pleased, had the report been less favourable. As it, however, grew late, and the Marquis feared the family at Highwood would fancy some accident had befallen him, he once more took leave of Mr. Langhton and the family, promising to ride over early in the morning, to enquire how the Father did; adding—"I shall also take some active measures to bring the assassin

to justice, notwithstanding the friar's scruples, since his suspicions respecting his nephew are absurd; and if, as it appears, he was attacked by a stranger, the perpetrator of so villainous a deed ought to meet with the punishment due to his crimes."

Mr. Langhton and Lady William were perfectly of his opinion. Belthorpe feared the very imperfect description the Father had given of the assassin would not enable them to trace him; offering, nevertheless, to set out in search of him himself.—"Indeed it might be proper," he said, "to inform Madame de La Tour of what had befallen the Father, for fear, as the matter would certainly be made public, in consequence of Mr. Spencer having been called in, she should be more alarmed for his safety than his situation warranted."

Mr. Langhton hoped he would not meet with any accident. Algernon offered to accompany him, and a servant well armed might go with them. Our hero agreed it might be a necessary precaution, repeating his

his adieus; and his groom, who had been walking the horses about, having already given the alarm at the Nag's Head, and in the village, many people were already gone in pursuit of the villain, he told his Lord, who now set off full gallop for Highwood, fearful the family there might hear of the recent occurrences before his arrival.

CHAP. III.

Malcolm having promised to be at home at eight, the party at Highwood began to grow uneasy, when nine o'clock struck, and he was not returned. Lord Algernon presumed he wished to have a little private conversation with Lady William, so had

remained with her after the family had gone to vespers. This appeared so likely a conjecture, that they continued in momentary expectation of him till ten o'clock, which was Lady Winifred's supper-hour, when Lord Dunluce proposed going in search of him. Something must have occurred to have occasioned this delay.

The Earl had resolved to accompany his son, and had rung the bell to order his carriage, when the Marquis made his appearance amongst them, and briefly accounted for having kept them waiting supper.

Lady Winifred was shocked to hear he had been in such danger, declaring that she had never heard of a more wicked or more daring attempt. It must have been some secret enemy of the friar's.

Our hero agreed there was every reason to suppose it had been a premeditated attack, but did not of course inform her upon whom the first very improbable suspicions had fallen: she therefore hoped the wretch would be overtaken and brought to justice,

by no means approving of the Father's wish to display his lenity towards an assassin.

The Earl declared it was being more charitable than he should have been, under similar circumstances; adding—"If Madame de La Tour had not been really ill, I should almost have suspected that it was some plan to draw the old man from home at so late an hour. She is a Frenchwoman, to be sure. Had she been an Italian, I would have advised her being taken up on suspicion."

"I cannot suppose she was at all concerned in the business," replied our hero. "The Father has not made himself many friends, and may, nay, I think that fact is very clearly ascertained, have made himself many enemies. Whether the assassin was a foreigner or an Englishman, must remain in doubt, except he is taken; and as a hue and cry has been raised at Chedworth, I think it possible he may be secured; but if he should, the Father's mis-

taken charity may prevent him from swearing to him; in which case he must be again released; and as he hinted the impossibility of his identifying his person, I thought it useless to trouble any of the neighbouring magistrates."

"You were very right," resumed the Earl.—"The Father may have reasons for wishing the wretch should not be brought to trial."

Lady Winifred had never been partial to Jesuits. Lady Algernon rallied her upon her want of charity, and this strange adventure afforded the party such ample scope for conjecture and conversation, that they did not separate till a late hour; and immediately after breakfast, the next morning, the three gentlemen rode over to the Priory, to enquire how the Father was, and whether any inteiligence had been obtained respecting the assassin.

Mr. Langhton was extremely happy to see them, and assured them that the wounded man had had a very tolerable night,

night, and was very free from fever; renewing his thanks to the Marquis, for having, at such imminent risk of his own life, preserved that of a fellow-creature.

Our hero, who had merely acted from the impulse of the moment, disclaimed any compliment for having merely done his duty; enquiring whether the assassin had been heard of.

"Unfortunately we have been unable to make any discoveries respecting him," replied Belthorpe; "though many people in Chedworth, besides myself, went in pursuit of him; and Mr. Spencer told us this morning, that Dr. Murray would write to Manchester and Preston, if the Father would send an accurate description of his person; but as he is unable to comply with the requisition, I am fearful the wretch will escape."

The Earl blamed the Father's lenity.—Mr. Langhton could not explain in what he supposed it originated; and Lady William could only suppose he had been too much agitated

agitated at the moment, to take an accurate survey of the wretch who had so treacherously attacked him.

"Madame de La Tour was rather better, though still very weak," said Belthorpe;—"and had been so dreadfully agitated, when she learnt the danger the Father had been in, that he had been under the necessity of sitting up in her parlour the whole night, having feared that she would either have gone into fits, or have had a return of her complaint. He had, however, left her tolerably composed, and meant to see her again in the evening, the Father having prescribed with his usual skill for her disorder; and as the gentlemen felt very little interested about her, they soon took their leave, the Marquis requesting his brother would ride over to Highwood, should the friar be worse, or should any intelligence transpire respecting the fugitive murderer.

Having mounted their horses, our hero said he must look in upon Dr. Murray, not having called at his house the day before.

The

The Earl said he would accompany him thither, as he was extremely prepossessed in his favour, from the Marquis's account of him.

Lord Dunluce spoke also very highly in praise of his courtesy, which had induced him to receive him very politely the day before, notwithstanding he had so imprudently endangered his daughter and niece's beauty, if not their lives, though he never should have forgiven himself, had he been so unfortunate as to do either.

"Then I hope you will be infinitely more circumspect in future," rejoined the Earl, "as I am frequently under the necessity of apologizing for you as it is."

Their arrival at the rectory prevented a continuance of what the Viscount deemed a lecture, and they were immediately ushered into the usual sitting-room, where the three ladies and the Doctor were sitting, who received them with infinite politeness, and with that proper degree of respect which the rector and his wife conceived due

due to the superior rank of the Marquis and the Earl. The latter instantly apologized, in the most pleasant manner, for his son's recent heedlessness, which he feared, he observed, was constitutional, since neither precept nor example had hitherto induced him to take the trouble of reflecting, before he acted or spoke; therefore, unlike Charles the Second, he not only did, but frequently said very foolish things.

The Doctor said every thing that was proper in return, and the conversation soon became very general and very gay; so much so, that the visitors forgot that they had intended to prolong their ride, and readily partook of various refreshments, which were brought in without form or ceremony, but perfectly calculated to tempt them to taste them; and as it reminded our hero of the luncheon at Hilton, he reverted to the over-night's adventure. The Doctor had heard but a very imperfect account of it from Mr. Spencer, who had looked in while they were at breakfast,

breakfast, and had regretted the Father could not identify the villain's person.

The Earl entered into various details, which induced both the Doctor and the ladies to pay our hero many compliments upon his humanity and total disregard of self. He, in return, averred there could be no merit in having acted from the mere impulse of the moment; only wishing he had been fortunate enough to secure the rogue, whom he now feared would escape unpunished.

"Altogether it was a very mysterious business," the Doctor observed, "as assassination was certainly very uncommon in England; and in so remote a part of the country, he should have supposed any body might have ventured to have either walked or rode at any hour of the night."

Not chusing, however, to retail the mere gossiping tales of the village, he said no more; and after a very long visit, his guests rose to depart. The Doctor saw them to the outer gate, where they mounted, and

continued their ride, which they were obliged to shorten, as it grew late.

The Earl spoke, in very high terms, of the Murray family; assuring our hero, that they even more than answered his expectations. The Doctor was at once the scholar and the gentleman; his wife an amiable, unaffected woman; and their daughter seemed to have inherited the peculiar merits of each.

"But what think you of Miss Melbourne, Sir?" asked Lord Dunluce.

"That she would appear to greater advantage in a ball-room, than in the worthy rector's parlour, as she does not shine in conversation like her cousin. She may therefore be a very pleasant partner during a country-dance; but I should prefer Miss Murray, were I obliged to chuse between them for life."

"So should I," resumed our hero, "were I inclined to bestow my name upon either; since no man of common understanding would prefer Miss Melbourne, who

who has been educated according to the present fashion, and who is certainly initiated into all the mysteries of the toilette, to her more modest cousin, whose smiles bespeak the innocence of her heart."

"So, so, Marquis," cried the gay Dunluce; "then ere long we shall see the Doctor in lawn sleeves, and his daughter Marchioness of Endermay."

"I think it very probable that the Doctor may attain a mitre," was the reply;—"but much as I see to admire in his daughter, I give you my honour I am not in love with her; and I do mean Cupid should preside at my wedding."

"So do I," said Lord Dunluce; "and notwithstanding your philippic against Miss Melbourne, I think her a very fine girl, and a very fashionable one, and when I do marry ——."

"Fashion, not love, must lead you to the altar," interrupted the Earl.

"I shall never like an unfashionable dowdy, Sir. For instance, I could not marry Hannah Albany,

Albany, if her hundred thousand, which has greatly increased, was trebled."

"Nor my sister," resumed our laughing hero, "because she is so unfashionable."

"Oh, positively, I should give her the preference; but *entre nous,* I do not think she would have me, else she would do me credit; and I dare say she will have an excellent fortune, first and last."

"Very probably," rejoined the Earl;—"and when you are ten years older, I would have you look out for a wife. No woman of sense will accept of you now."

Their arrival at Highwood prevented the young Peer from entering the lists with his father, as he fancied himself irresistible, and was well convinced that there was hardly a woman in England who would reject the presumptive heir to a marquisate.

After dinner, Lady Winifred again exhausted herself in conjectures respecting the Father's assassin; he must be some secret enemy; and she owned she feared the sufferer was better acquainted with him than

than he chose to acknowledge; he might have privately injured some of their neighbours, who had thus sought his revenge.

The Earl next mentioned their having visited Dr. Murray. She made no remarks, contenting herself with thinking that both the Earl and Marquis were too familiar with their inferiors; and, by way of changing the subject, she mentioned having received a letter from her brother, who highly approved of her intention of visiting London in the spring, and who had requested she would be his guest there; but having refused to take up her abode in Portland-place, she said she should certainly not make St. James's-square her head-quarters, as she had, from the first, resolved to take a ready-furnished house.

"Will you accept of mine, Lady Winifred?" said our hero.—"I dare say my kind uncle will give me house-room during your stay in town; and you will certainly be more pleasantly situated in Arlington-street

street than in many less airy parts of London."

"You are infinitely obliging, Lord Endermay; but I should indeed deserve censure, were I to accept your polite offer; and I should never feel myself at home in a borrowed abode, and out of which I had turned the owner. A much smaller house will content me. Lord Algernon has promised to look out for one for me; and wherever he fixes my abode, there I shall feel most comfortable."

Our hero did not therefore press his offer, as he had his doubts whether it might not lead to a report of his being engaged to Miss Hannah, whom he liked very well as a cousin, as she was good-tempered, conversible, and by no means formal; still he felt that he was half ashamed of the relationship, of course he had no wish to give her a right to his name; and Lady Winifred sincerely wished he might marry into a Duke's family, as she fancied that her own

own consequence would be increased, if he made a prudent choice.

The next morning, while the family were still at breakfast, Algernon Albany was shewn in, and hardly allowed himself time to enquire after the ladies before he exclaimed—"Well, brother, we have heard some tidings of the murderer at last; for he certainly mounted the roof of a London stage-coach at day-break the next morning, at ———, which is more than twenty miles from where he tried to send the poor old Padre to kingdom come."

"Indeed!" replied the Marquis; "and pray how came you to know he did so?"

"You shall hear.—Ashton went to the Nag's Head late last night, and was there when the landlord came home from Manchester, who told him, that being at some inn there, he was mentioning the circumstance to some friends in the tap-room, when a stage-coachman, who had just come in with the London coach, swore he had taken up the very man that morning at

———,

———, as he was sure he was a foreigner; and he remarked, that he frequently looked behind him, as if fearful of being pursued; and, as a further proof, he was ready to swear that he had been washing his great-coat previous to his hailing the stage, as he had remarked how wet it was, and knew there had been no rain in the night. He had, however, accounted for the circumstance, by telling him that he had fallen into a muddy ditch the day before, which had induced him to order his coat to be cleaned; and his foolish servant had actually washed it, but had persuaded him it was all but dry when he wanted it to put on; and he was in such a hurry, and so afraid of missing the coach, he had not felt it before he put it on, and had walked too fast to be sensible of the damp: and this story the coachman had believed, with whom he rode about eighteen miles, and then alighted upon a common, at least two miles from any house, pretending he was going to a village, the spire of which was hardly

hardly visible, and the name of which he did not know, and to which he never went, the man is well assured, since having stopped at the end of the next stage, as he drives the London coach, which comes down to Manchester in the evening, he saw the same man during the day, slinking round by the back of the town, as if afraid of taking the direct road, which had led him to suspect he was upon the sculk; but there are so many coaches go through in the evening, that 'tis most probable he is in or near London by this time; and there, as grandfather says," continued the excellent orator, "we might as well look for a needle in a pottle of hay."

Lady Winifred thought there could be no doubt of his being the vile assassin, sincerely rejoicing that he was not, it should seem, an Englishman.

"I should have grieved to have suspected a countryman of so atrocious a deed," rejoined Lord Algernon; "but I did not

know the Father had many foreign acquaintance."

"Oh, he has his secrets, uncle," replied Algernon; "he fancies he knows the person, whom he is unwilling to prosecute, because he is distantly related to him, and owes him an old grudge."

"Then he very probably knows best," said the Earl; and for fear Algernon should enter into some further details, our hero proposed returning with him, which he did, and took the opportunity to caution him very seriously respecting the first fugitive, since he might very unintentionally involve Mr. Langhton in a very unpleasant predicament.

"I will never mention him again, I give you my word; but the description the coachman gave of the man he took up, tallies to a T with the Father's description of his nephew, and he is sure it is him."

"He would not dare to tell me so, after declaring

declaring he was insane, and could not speak a word of English."

"Why, true, as this man could make himself understood, he could not be his nephew. Do tell him so, brother; for, as Belthorpe says, he has cut himself more than once about that poor fellow."

The Marquis assured him he should not fail; and as he was admitted into the Padre's vaulta, upon his hinting his fears that his poor nephew was, as he had at first suspected, the culprit, he confuted him so ably, that he made him contradict all he had been saying, and convinced Mr. Langhton that he was either delirious, or still endeavouring to deceive him, which did not tend to raise him in his esteem; therefore, though the surgeon was able to cure the wounds he had received, he could not minister to the disease which preyed upon his mind, as he was well convinced that the reappearance of his prisoner would totally blast his character, as he felt that he should be obliged to prove the truth of what he

had advanced respecting him; and this he well knew would be utterly impossible;—and there was no knowing who might step forward in the fugitive's defence; still he built great hopes upon his being unable to give any very clear account of himself, as he was well aware of all Juliano could say, if called upon to explain who he was, or from whence he came. Hoping, however, for the best, and rejoicing that criminals were neither put to the torture, nor confined in the Inquisition, in England, he trusted, that if the worst came to the worst, he could only acknowledge that he was a natural son of his friend the Prior's, who was still in England, and whom he was resolved to send for, to concert proper measures with him, as he knew he was not, as the Marquis suspected, his assassin. Indeed it was not among the least of his troubles, the being in constant dread of this unknown enemy, whom some one must have urged to destroy him.

Juliano, he was as well convinced as the Marquis,

Marquis, was not concerned in the business. Mr. Langhton had long considered him as a saint, he well knew, though he felt that he had of late greatly fallen in his esteem; yet he was well assured that he would be the last man upon earth to have planned his death.

Lady William had never ranked among his favourites, still he did justice to her principles; and he well knew that she revered his habit, though she might not like him. Belthorpe was certainly in many of his secrets, and he had not the highest opinion of him; but where should he have found money to have bribed any agent to have done so desperate a deed, as he took care that Mr. Langhton should not be too bountiful, and his pupil never had much money at command? Besides, he flattered himself that Algernon was extremely attached to him; and certainly, to his face, he always appeared so; but he fully indemnified himself for this hypocrisy, by

abusing him most gloriously behind his back.

Madame de La Tour was also too much his friend, and was besides so much more likely to be a gainer by his living than his dying, that he exonerated her from any connexion with his murderer, as he could easily account for the illness which had seized her; well knowing that she fully participated in his chagrin respecting the flight of his prisoner; therefore, who to suspect of having wished to murder him, he could not decide. That Juliano might have been so inclined, he could well believe—as he well knew he was not insane; but he also knew that the person he grappled with was not his late prisoner, who, as the Marquis had very justly observed, could not have provided for his immediate wants, much less have procured an offensive weapon, situated as he must have been when he left the Priory. Indeed it was very extraordinary that he had contrived to remain concealed

concealed so long. To be sure, he might have terminated his existence in a fit of despair. Could he but be once assured of that, he felt he should be comparatively happy; since he was well aware that he had worse than ruin to dread, should he ever be, as the Marquis seemed to think probable, legally called upon to declare who his late prisoner really was.

Such were his constant reflections when alone; and he mended so slowly, that Mr. Belthorpe continued to supply his place at chapel, and took such pains to render himself agreeable to Mr. Langhton, that the old gentleman resolved he should succeed the Father, when he departed this life for a better.

During his convalescence, Lady Winifred and her guests more than once visited the Priory, and once, by special invitation, the whole party dined there; upon which occasion the invalid made his appearance in the parlour for the first time.

Lady Winifred was delighted with the

respect shewn her, and had condescended to oblige Rosalie, by bringing Miss Albany with her, whom even Mr. Langhton ventured to criticise, when she was gone; the Father only wished some true believer would undertake her conversion, as he was convinced that she was still a Jew at heart.

Lady William could not suppose so;—and at all events, if having been educated a Protestant had not wrought the desired change, she feared nothing would.

Mr. Langhton perfectly agreed with her Ladyship, observing—"That he had merely remarked that her features bore the stamp of Judaism; her manners certainly did not; they were extremely correct; and so he made no doubt were her principles, as he had a very high opinion of Lady Winifred Albany—so had the Father, who now found it necessary to yield, upon every occasion, to his patron, whom he, no long time since, governed with a rod of iron.

Belthorpe very adroitly paid his court at his

his expence; and Mr. Langhton found it so much pleasanter to rule than to be ruled, that the younger priest daily gained ground in his esteem.

Madame de La Tour continued, however, the Padre's fast friend, and even shed tears of joy, when he officiated again in the chapel; and as nearly three weeks had now elapsed since the departure of Juliano, the old man began to fancy himself in tolerable security, and to hope that he had either resolved to conceal whence he came, and all he knew respecting himself, or that he was, as seemed most probable, no more.

Meanwhile, the Earl of Algernon, having greatly prolonged his visit at Highwood, fixed the day of his departure for Woodville. Our hero took a kind leave of the family at the Priory, hoping he should see Algernon and Rosalie early in the spring, and half promising to escort them home, in his way into Scotland.

Unasked, Algernon declared he would often write to him, which our hero en-

couraged, thinking he should, by that means, learn what was going forward, and whether the Padre ever gave up the name of his assassin, whom he was convinced he knew. He next paid his respects at the rectory, whither Lord Dunluce accompanied him, who continued to declare himself the admirer of Miss Melbourne; even hinting to our hero, that should his father run restiff, he would steal a match. Presuming, however, that a month's absence would obliterate her from his memory, the Marquis did not mention his folly to the Earl, with whom he set out for Woodville the fifth of December, Lady Algernon and her son having taken the lead of them, as they were not more than fifty miles from thence, and she wished to reach home a few hours before her guest.

Lady Winifred had declined being of the party, alledging to the Countess, that it might lead the world to suppose a matrimonial connexion was on the tapis between the Marquis and her ward, which might prevent

prevent the latter from having so eligible an offer as she had a right to expect; and as the Countess thought they should be quite as comfortable without the stately dame, she did not argue the point with her; particularly as a large party of her friends were to spend the holidays at Woodville, which exactly suited our hero's taste, as the house was like his own, upon a very large scale, but extremely comfortable, and every guest found themselves completely at home; and both the Earl and Countess made a point of rendering every thing agreeable to their favourite nephew, whom they felt proud of introducing to their neighbours and friends.

Lord Dunluce amused him with criticising the former, many of whom were not sufficiently fashionable, to stand very high in his good graces; and he frequently declared that there was not a female worthy looking at; so often reverting to the lovely Charlotte Melbourne, during the first week, that Malcolm began to think she had made

a very deep impression upon him; but at the end of another, he appeared to have forgotten her; and before New Year's Day, he declared himself violently smitten with a Cheshire damsel, whom chance threw in his way, and whom our hero made no doubt would, in her turn, be forgotten.

CHAP. IV.

The Marquis of Derwent generally spent his Christmas at Derwent House, which was also in Cheshire; but this year he did not leave London, owing to a slight fit of the gout; he wrote the Earl, regretting the circumstance, as he meant to have paid an early visit at Woodville, being very anxious to

to be properly introduced to Lord Endermay.

"You bid fair to become a first-rate favourite, you perceive," said Lord Algernon, handing his father's letter to his nephew.—"I begin to hope you will reconcile the Marquis to his title of grandfather, which will frequently be sounded in his ears this spring, when all his grandchildren are in town; though I put no faith in his being detained in London by the gout, since I rather suspect he has started some new game he does not like to lose sight of. I should not speak thus freely to Henry, who has but too great a propensity to tread in his steps."

"You may rely upon my discretion, my dear uncle; though I do hope you will be agreeably disappointed this time; since I own I should much less regret hearing Lord Derwent was confined to his dressing-room with the gout, than to be told he had added another name to the list of those silly women whom he has seduced from the paths of

of duty; as I have been assured he never takes up with any other person's leavings."

"Your information is very correct; and I dare say he glories in what would make any other man blush. When we return to town, we shall be able to judge whether he ever means to reform;" and thus the subject dropped for the present, as they seldom had an opportunity to discuss family affairs during the present festive season.

Algernon had twice written to his brother since his departure from Highwood; and if his letters were not very well worded, they gave him a great deal of information respecting the inhabitants of the Priory.—"Belthorpe and him often watched the Padre from the lumber-room," he wrote him; and even his darling hoards, which he was continually counting, did not seem to console him for the loss of his nephew, if such he was, as he was more gloomy than ever, and at times so cross with him (Algernon), that he sometimes wished his foreign friend had let out a little more of his

his bad blood. Then again he would be extremely fond of him; often telling him that he must make him amends for all his misfortunes, with such like nonsense, just to cant him over to stand his friend, in case there should ever be any bustle about the run-away, whom every body was now convinced was no more mad than he was, else he must have been seen or heard of; always concluding, by wishing Lady Winifred, who had taken a wonderful liking to Rosalie, would fix the time for her departure from Highwood, as he was all impatience to visit London.

This the Marquis conceived very possible, and felt extremely happy in the reflection, that he would not be consigned to his care; therefore no responsibility would attach to him, admitting (as he made no doubt he would) he gave into any follies. He also frequently heard from the truly grateful Juliano, whose letters afforded him infinite satisfaction. His remarks upon all he saw and learnt were so novel, and yet such

proofs

proofs of the solidity of his judgment, that he was convinced nature had done much for him; and he seemed resolved, by incessant application, to render his excellent memory extremely subservient to his improvement, as he was indefatigable in studying the English language; but even the Italian, he wrote his benefactor, much as it abounded in superlatives, was very insufficient to express his feelings, when addressing the Marquis of Endermay, to whom he continued to look up, as to his guardian angel; generally hinting his wishes that he might, in time, be deemed capable of holding some situation in a mercantile house, which might prevent his continuing a burthen to his generous protector; and Alexander M'Crue was even lavish in his praises of him to his brother, declaring that he never had felt such an attachment upon so short an acquaintance for any one; dwelling upon the pains he took to render himself master of the English language, and appearing to think he would

would soon be capable of undertaking any situation in a merchant's counting-house, as he wrote a beautiful hand, and was a very good accomptant.

Our hero was, however, resolved to ascertain who he was, before he formed any plans for the future, secretly determining, that should he, as he thought very probable, appear to be the illegitimate offspring of some dignitary of the Romish church, to make him his secretary or amanuensis, and to fix his abode at Montrose Castle, where he would find himself very agreeably situated, as he found he was an enthusiastic admirer of the beauties of nature, which very circumstance had rendered his recent confinement peculiarly irksome to him.

Wishing, however, to see and converse with him, he readily agreed to the necessity of his appearing at the birth-day; having been of course comprised in the recent promotions, and being well aware that he was at present in very high favour with

with the higher powers, who had promised, as his regiment had followed him to England, to afford him an early opportunity of adding to the laurels he had already acquired; therefore, on the tenth of January, he left Woodville, with his uncle and family, and, after a very pleasant journey, reached Portland-place, by a fashionable dinner hour, on the 13th, where he spent the evening with his affectionate relatives, who felt grieved as the hour of separation drew near; since the Earl and Countess considered him as a second son, and Lord Dunluce had certainly the feelings of a brother for him: he was not, therefore, suffered to depart, till he had promised to be their frequent guest indeed, and to consider their house as his second home, and their table as his own.—His own house was larger than his uncle's; and as he had thought the furniture looked both faded and out of date, when last in town, he had given orders for various alterations and additions, which had greatly contributed

contributed to improve its appearance ;— and it now seemed, in every respect, a proper residence for a man of rank and fashion.

Donald had, by his Lord's desire, visited his brother during the afternoon; and our hero had no sooner reached his dressing-room, than he exclaimed—" Have you seen Juliano?"

" I have, my Lord ; and I was astonished at being addressed by him in very tolerable English; still he is always at a loss for words, when he endeavours to express his gratitude, he says; and I am sure, if your Lordship could but hear him, when talking of you, you would think yourself amply repaid for having been so generous towards him ; he is all impatience to see you, but dare not venture to wait upon you, he says, till he has received your permission ; and I hope you will suffer me to bring him into Arlington-street to-morrow, as I am no less impatient for your Lordship to see him, since I never was so

struck

struck in my life, as when I saw him this afternoon, as I am sure I should not have known him again; for even when dressed in your Lordship's cloaths, he did not look like himself, to judge from his present appearance, else you would have made the same remark I did to-day, as I will be sworn he is of no mean origin; but when your Lordship has seen him, I shall know whether our opinions coincide; since, if the likeness does not strike you even more forcibly than it did me, why I shall fancy I was in a dream. I did tell Alick who he reminded me of, and he declared that the same idea had occurred to him; but he very prudently forbore troubling your Lordship with his conjectures; as I shall, since I wish you to judge for yourself. God forbid I should wish to prejudice you in his favour; I only hope the truth will be brought to light, ere long, as I think it very likely that vile old Jesuit has more to answer for than your Lordship was aware of—

indeed,

indeed, I might with safety say, I am sure he has. His nephew, forsooth!—Well, patience, say I."

"Upon my honour, Donald, you are putting mine to the test," replied the Marquis, in a gay tone; "as I am very much at a loss to guess the meaning of your mysterious hints."

"I will explain every thing, after your Lordship has seen the young gentleman, who is no more an Italian than I am, I would venture to lay any wager; but, till I have heard your opinion, it would ill become me to speak my real sentiments upon so very nice a point, since there is certainly no accounting for likenesses. Children are often very unlike their parents.—Mr. Albany, for example, seems to take after none of the family."

The Marquis, who was not quite so dull of apprehension as he had wished his valet to suppose he was, being aware that Donald might think it would be presuming, were he to speak more plain, soon dismissed

missed him, resolving to visit his *protegée* the moment he had breakfasted; and, in consequence of this determination, he was in Well's-street before eleven. Alick was serving in his shop when he entered, but readily understood the sign he made him, not to address him by his title; and having called his wife, who merely curtsied in silence, to take his place behind the counter, he led the Marquis into his parlour, where he informed him that Mr. Julian, as they styled their lodger, was taking his English lesson; but as his master always left him at eleven, and the clock was upon the point of striking, he would soon be at liberty, as he supposed his Lordship would not chuse to go up while Mr. Edwards was with him; and while the honest Scotsman was launching out in praise of their inmate, the master left the house by the private door; and our hero, understanding he should find Juliano in the dining-room, went up alone, meaning to knock at his door; feeling anxious to know whether he would

would recognise him, never having seen him but once before, and then merely for a few minutes, as he was perfectly convinced, from what Donald had said, that he should not know him again; and he had come prepared to acknowledge or to refute the valet's suspicions, having perfectly understood his meaning.

The door was, however, wide open, owing to Juliano's being in the very act of throwing some coals upon the fire, having been to fetch the scuttle from the landing; and as our hero had advanced within the room before he turned his head, he was very innocently the occasion of his dropping it from his hand, upon recognising his generous friend in the person of his visitor. Instantly falling at his feet, he caught the proffered hand, which he pressed with fervour to his lips, saying, in very tolerable English—"May the Almighty shower down every blessing upon my noble benefactor!"

The Marquis forcibly raised him, replying, in Italian—"You overrate the trifling service

service I have been able to render you, my dear Juliano."

"Can I ever sufficiently prize the blessing of liberty; or can I ever be sufficiently grateful towards him, who released me from the most irksome state of bondage?—as I do not think I should have survived another winter's residence in my attic."

Tears stood in his eyes, while speaking; and he seemed so much agitated, the Marquis was more than ever resolved to render his future life as comfortable as circumstances would admit.

"You knew me again, it should seem," he resumed, in a friendly tone.

"Knew you, my Lord! was it possible that I should ever forget your features and countenance? No, they were indelibly stamped upon my mind, from the first moment we met; for did not you appear in the character of my guardian angel?"

"You shall ever find me your friend," was the reply, contemplating, in his turn, the grateful youth he was addressing, who

was

was dressed very plainly, but very fashionably. His hair had also been cut and curled, in conformity to the same rule; and he was, in every respect, so infinitely altered for the better, that he was convinced he should not have known him again.

"Can it be possible!" he involuntarily exclaimed, while gazing at his animated countenance, and hastily pulling out a miniature picture of his late father, which had been done by a first-rate artist, for his mother, and was allowed to have been the best likeness which had ever been taken of Lord William Albany; he had brought it with him, in consequence of Donald's mysterious hints; and the more he compared the inanimate image with the living one of his father before him, the more he became impressed with the idea that Juliano was his brother.—He therefore mentally exclaimed—"I will have this point cleared up to my satisfaction, let the consequence be what it may, and should it cost me half my fortune;" while Juliano, who perceived that

he was comparing his features with those of the picture he held in his hand, longed to see the miniature, and wished he dare have taken the liberty to ask his benefactor a few questions.

The Marquis, aware of having excited his attention, yet fearful of creating hopes which might never be realised, returned the picture to his pocket, saying—" Excuse my seeming rudeness, my dear Juliano;—but I fancied you bore a stronger resemblance than you really do to a deceased friend of mine, which induced me to compare your features to those of his portrait; but having satisfied myself, now tell me whether you are perfectly satisfied with your present situation? Are the Macrues pleasant people? and can you make up your mind to remain where you are, till we have settled how to make that vile Father Benedetto acknowledge who you are?"

"I cannot be more comfortably situated, my Lord; the kindness of these good people is like your own, unbounded."

"I am

"I am glad to hear you like them," said our hero, taking a chair, and informing him of every thing that had occurred at the Priory since his departure; not omitting the Father's having attempted to make the family believe he had endeavoured to assassinate him, and the grounds upon which he had defended him; asking him whether he did not think the prior who had brought him over, was the real assassin?

Juliano thought it very possible; since, though he once had had a very high opinion of him, the base means he had made use of to decoy him into the snare which had been purposely spread for him, had convinced him that he was extremely treacherous, since he would have shewn himself much more his friend, had he left him in Italy; though he now blessed God that he had brought him over, since the Almighty had raised him such a friend.—As for the story the Padre had told, to account for his having so shamefully immured him, that he did not hesitate to declare an abso-

lute fiction, since he had never had any reason to suppose he belonged to any family of note; and the convent in which he had been brought up was in the Milanese, in the very suburbs of Milan, and not in Tuscany, where he said the Corsini family resided.

This, however, perfectly accounted for Mr. Langhton's having suffered him to be confined beneath his roof; adding, that as he had, thanks to his generous benefactor, obtained his liberty, he almost dreaded calling upon the treacherous monk, to clear up the mystery attached to his birth, for fear he should, under the plea of their being related, endeavour, as a small punishment, to send him back to Italy, where he might still be able to have him secured for life.

"He never can exert any power over you, my friend," rejoined the Marquis.—"I will, if required, stand forth your champion and protector; therefore make yourself perfectly easy. It is necessary we should

should make the wretch disclose who you really are; but I will proceed with prudence, since I will not stir a step till I have consulted one of my best friends, to whom I mean to introduce you, and to whom you will not object to repeat the summary account you gave me of yourself."

"Surely not, my Lord; your friends must be good men, and, like yourself, more anxious to serve than to injure such an insignificant being as myself; and certainly, if I run no risk of being again subjected to the Padre's controul, it would afford me infinite satisfaction to know who I really am, since, from a boy, I have been kept in total ignorance of my family; and I much fear that I have no legal claim upon any parent."

"You will always have a claim upon my friendship, Juliano; let that content you: for the present I must bid you adieu; but depend upon seeing me often.—Accept this trifle," putting several bank-notes into his hand; "you may want to purchase books;

and the small sum you brought to London must long since have been expended, as you were in want of every thing."

Juliano merely bowed very low in return; and our hero hastened home, after strongly recommending his young friend to Alick, who, being fully convinced in his own mind that his lodger was brother to the Marquis of Endermay, was resolved to treat him with the respect and attention he thought his due; while the Marquis resolved to write instantly to Dr. Campbell, and to request he would join him immediately in town, wishing to consult him, before he mentioned the matter to his uncle, who would, he was well convinced, when once apprized of every circumstance, prove an able second in ascertaining Juliano's rights.

These reflections induced him, however, to recollect, that he ought to call in Portland-place before he went home. Thither, therefore, he proceeded, and, after the first compliments, said—"He had been into Marybone,

Marybone, to enquire after an old friend, thinking it possible they might have sent into Arlington-street during his absence."

"Then what say you to accompanying me into St. James's-square?" rejoined the Earl.—"I am fearful Lord Derwent is still a prisoner with the gout, and we both owe him a how do ye."

"I am at your orders, uncle; but shall not we be unfashionably early?"

"Oh, an hour hence will be quite soon enough.—I dare say it is not yet *grand jour* in the square; and I am not a sufficient favourite to be received before. Dunluce is gone to visit some of his college friends. He is extremely anxious to appear at the birth-day; but I do not mean he shall be presented before he is of age. Indeed he should have remained at college, had he not entirely forgotten why he went thither; and he may as well run riot in London as there. As yet, he will not be able to ruin himself; and should he exceed his allowance, I will not pay his debts; this he well

knows; therefore, if he obtains credit, he must settle matters how he can with his creditors, when he comes of age, as I never will encourage tradesmen who suffer minors to get into their books; and I know the late Lord Endermay preached to the same effect, and to infinitely more purpose."

Lady Algernon hoped the Marquis's example would have due weight with her son. Our hero rather wished to change the subject, and had succeeded, when Sir James Manners was announced.

"What can have brought the prating fellow?" said the Countess, in a half whisper.

"He is big with some tale of scandal, which he is anxious to circulate," was the reply; and in another second the Baronet made his appearance.

"I heard, by mere chance, this very morning, that you were in town, Lord Algernon, so I hurried hither, to enquire after your and the Countess's health; you both look wonderfully well; the cold has not been

been too much for you, notwithstanding Woodville is certainly a Northern, if not a bleak situation."

"We had a house full of company, which might prevent our being so sensible of the cold. But allow me to introduce you to my nephew, the Marquis of Endermay."

"Your Lordship does me honour," was the reply; and having paid his compliments to our hero, and hoped they should soon be intimate friends, he resumed, turning to Lord Algernon—"Have you seen Lord Derwent since your arrival in town?"

"I have not; the Marquis and I propose calling upon him this morning; the gout prevented him from spending his Christmas in the country."

"The gout!—excellent; fresh game, he ought to have said; for he is over head and ears once more; and, what is worse, the young gipsey still keeps him in suspense, though he has positively discarded his last sultana, to make way for her. I

rallied him the other day upon having broke with his rural flame rather shabbily, as the girl was very constant, and not very extravagant. He assured me that he was sick of mistresses—they were all artful and interested. Nay, positively, he looked so grave, and seemed so much in earnest, that if I had not been assured he was endeavouring to ensnare a new face, I should have fancied he was a reformed man. This I gave him pretty plainly to understand, but I could not bring him to confession."

"Then let us hope he spoke the truth," rejoined the Earl; "but are you sure that he has broke with Miss Newford?"

"I had it from the very best authority, the lady herself, who vows he has treated her very shamefully."

"Possibly she hoped such an assertion would render you more generous."

"Oh, 'pon honour, we are not upon those terms. I merely speak to her *en passant*, but nothing more; but, to be very candid, it was from her that I learnt the

the Marquis was in pursuit of another *bona roba*, as his groom told her suivante, or lady in waiting, with whom he is upon very intimate terms, that about six weeks ago, while gently riding along the New Road, his Lord and him passed a dozen or more very fine girls, walking arm in arm, near the Bedford nursery-grounds, some of whom were women, in point of size;—and the Marquis was so struck with the beauty of one of the latter, that he rode by the side of them for some time, and finally dismounted, desiring Charles to walk the horses about till he joined him again; and he did so for two hours or more; while the Marquis, he supposes, followed the ladies; but he could not tell whether he had gone home with them, or where they lived, since, though they had taken the same road daily, in spite of hail, rain, or snow, he had always been ordered to wait at the same place, near one of the turnpikes.

This intelligence perfectly accounts, in Miss Newford's opinion, for her abrupt

dismissal from the snug town-house she has not long occupied; and, as revenge is sweet, she has laid a trap for the old gentleman, being resolved to paint him in his true colours to her successor; and as I know her to be very capable of entering the lists with any frail fair one, I own I should like to witness the scene; and, between ourselves, she has promised to give me notice, before she proceeds to action. Two old women, who are acquainted with his person, are to be in waiting for some days, at the turnpike in question, and they are to dodge him to his new mistress's, who has not yet capitulated, she thinks; and then she will enter upon the task she has allotted herself. I think she will convince her ancient admirer, that discarded mistresses are as much to be dreaded as jealous wives."

"I am fearful she will repent having formed so wise a plan," replied the Earl. "However, if she does succeed in making the Marquis blush for his folly, I shall give

her great credit, as such a fracas may work a reformation in his conduct."

The Baronet merely wished to render the antiquated beau ridiculous; and not finding his scheme so highly relished as he had expected, he soon took his leave, and the Earl resolved to inform his father what was in agitation; not wishing to connive at his being rendered ridiculous, though he openly disapproved of his past and present conduct.

CHAP.

CHAP. V.

The Marquis and him were therefore preparing to depart, kindly wishing to put the amorous old Peer upon his guard, when the arrival of General Grosvenor, one of Lord Algernon's most intimate friends, induced them to resume their seats. Having welcomed them to London, and shook hands with his brother soldier, as he termed our hero, whom he had seen before, he said, turning to the Earl—"Now suffer me to wish you joy."

"Upon what occasion?" demanded the surprised Lord Algernon.

"Why, can you possibly be in ignorance

norance of the circumstance I allude to?"

"I positively am; so pray explain."

"Well, this is wonderful! so you were not invited to the wedding? Not that I suppose you would have gone. Nay, had you known in time, perhaps you might have forbid the bans."

"Forbid the bans!" exclaimed the agitated Earl; "why the boy cannot have been such a fool. I had no idea that there was a favoured lady in the case. He left home about eleven."

"Why we are truly playing at cross purposes," cried the General.—"I should not thus abruptly have told you that your son was married, believe me; and I dare say he has no such intention at present. I meant to inform you that your father was married this morning, and did not suppose that I should be telling you any news."

"Thank God 'tis no worse," cried the Earl.

"Upon

"Upon my honour, I had also taken the alarm," said the Countess.

"Why, even upon reflection," said Lord Algernon, "I should much sooner have suspected Dunluce of having acted so absurdly. Indeed there would have been excuses for him—there are not for his grandfather; still I am extremely happy that I was mistaken in my first conjectures, though I am half tempted to believe you are jokking," relating what Sir James Manners had just told him.

"Then I presume he has married the lady who caught his heart flying," resumed the General; "since I give you my honour, I spoke the truth; and I will now inform you how I came to be thus wise.—About two hours ago, as I was walking along Piccadilly, I remarked a post-chaise and four, which drove swiftly by me. The Derwent arms and coronet informed me to whom the carriage belonged, and I thought I caught a glimpse of the Marquis;

Marquis; but I own my whole attention was bestowed upon a very handsome girl, with whom he was conversing. Presuming it was a mistress, I rather wondered at his travelling thus publicly with her, as he has always been rather averse to his sultanas sporting his arms or liveries, and never allowed any of them to preside in St. James's-square. Feeling, therefore, rather curious to know something more about the reigning favourite, I proceeded to Derwent House; the porter was standing upon the steps, and, in answer to my enquiry, the man told me that his Lord had just left London for Cheshire, with his bride, having been married by special licence in the square, about an hour before; and as I cannot suppose the man told me an untruth, I proceeded hither, presuming you were much more *au fait* of every thing than I am."

"I can only suppose that my mother-in-law is the New Road beauty," rejoined the Earl; "and as matters have turned out, she

she must be either a woman of family, whom he dare not request would succeed Miss Newford, or some truly virtuous damsel, who insisted upon the marriage ceremony taking place before she yielded to his embraces. At all events, matters have been managed very privately. I presume my being expected in town hastened the wedding. I only wish I had had a hint of the old gentleman's intentions; I would certainly have called in the square, while the knot was being tied. As it is, I rather doubt our having any bride-cake."

"Miss Newford will be still more disappointed, I am of opinion," said our hero; "as she must not venture to intrude upon the Marchioness of Derwent, even to complain of my Lord Marquis."

"No, no, since he must be now considered as a reformed man; and were I to advise him, he would remain in Cheshire, as I know he entertains a very light opinion of the sex in general; and if the damsel is high bred, she may require to be kept out

of

of temptation, for fear the breed of the Albanys should degenerate; and I own I think he is ashamed of his choice; for I am sure he would have been the first to blazon his conquest, had he captivated any belle of fashion."

"There I agree with your Lordship," said the General.—"I did not chuse to ask the porter who the bride was; but I think we may venture to pronounce her of plebeian extraction; and when such girls are so far removed out of their sphere, they generally render both themselves and their husbands ridiculous, if nothing worse."

"And how often have I heard my father condemn men of his age for forming such unequal connexions, generally prognosticating what the consequences would be; and I must say he was seldom mistaken. For his own sake, I am sorry he acted so absurdly. If, however, it leads to his entire reformation, I shall be tempted to rejoice."

While, however, they were thus debating,

ing, the Earl's letters were brought in; and perceiving one from Lady Winifred, he instantly opened it, anxious to learn whether she had been in the secret, and read it aloud for the benefit of the company. She seemed, like himself, to have been totally ignorant of the Marquis's intentions, who had written her very lately, to request she would hasten her journey to London, as he was very impatient to see her.

"Doubtless to present her sister-in-law to her," said Lady Algernon.

"I am only afraid she will give up the idea of visiting London this spring," resumed the Earl;—"since, if the bride is not a woman of some family, she will never consent to be introduced to her."

"Let us hope curiosity will induce her to leave Highwood," said our hero, "as I should be very sorry were Rosalie and Miss Albany to be disappointed."

"We will send for the former, Marquis," replied Lady Algernon, "should the old lady give up her proposed journey; but

as

as Lord Derwent may insist upon his ward's coming out, I think she will make a merit of necessity, and pay us the promised visit."

Now, except upon Rosalie's account, Lord Endermay would not have cared whether the old lady had remained in the country, as he could have wished Juliano's rank in life had been ascertained, before Algernon Albany had been introduced to the circle of fashion; but as he feared, that whether she left Highwood or not, he and Belthorpe would come to town, he resolved to let matters take their course, being well aware that he must proceed very cautiously with the wily monk, who might else baffle all his endeavours to make him acknowledge the truth; but as these were points he could not yet debate with his uncle, he soon took leave of him and the Countess, readily promising to return to dinner, as he wished to hear the absurd remarks he knew Lord Dunluce would make upon his grandfather's marriage, which he mentioned

mentioned to Dr. Campbell in the letter he wrote him, upon his return home, in which he requested he would join him in town, as speedily as he could make it convenient, as he found himself extremely at a loss for the want of a domestic companion, to whom he could apply for advice upon every occasion, and who would prevent his giving into incessant dissipation, as a remedy against *ennui*.

He next wrote to Lady William Albany, with whom he had occasionally corresponded since he left the Priory, thinking she wanted something to enliven her in such a dreary abode. He gave her a detailed account of Lord Derwent's marriage, previous courtship, &c. requesting she would, in return, candidly inform him how Lady Winifred, to whom his uncle meant to impart the intelligence, appeared to approve of her brother's second marriage; promising to write again as soon as he was more *au fait* of the bride's family connexions: and as our readers may also wish

to

to know who the Marchioness of Derwent was before she bore that illustrious name, we shall enter into a few short details respecting her family and connexions. It is already known where the Marquis first saw her, his groom having mentioned the circumstance to his then mistress's abigail; and as she was in the rear of the little party, he rather presumed she was a teacher, or perhaps the daughter of the governess of the school. At all events, she was, in his opinion, the fairest of Eve's daughters, who had ever come across his path, and did not seem to be more than eighteen; the amorous Peer therefore gazed and looked, and looked and gazed, till he fancied himself more in love than he had ever been before; and as he continued riding gently by the side of the foot-path, with his eyes fixed upon this earth-treading star, at the risk of his neck, had his steed stumbled, she more than once met his looks; and as she also caught sight of his star (he was a Knight of the Garter), it being his rule when

when he wished to be remarked, to leave his great-coat sufficiently open to display this mark of his rank, she, as he expected, set him down for a very great man; his groom was besides in a very rich family livery, and, like his Lord, extremely well mounted; both she and her companion (who was her sister, and an excellent foil to the Marquis's divinity) became rather anxious to know who he was, as they each presumed they were the magnet which detained him near them.

At last, however, his Lordship rather mended his pace, but still cast many longing lingering looks behind him; when the party, having reached Somers-Town, retraced their steps; and the Peer soon did the same, contenting himself, however, with keeping them in sight till they reached the Adam and Eve, where they turned off, taking the Hampstead road. The Marquis chose to follow them, till, having reached a turnpike gate a few hundred yards farther on,

after

after pausing for a few moments, he dismounted; and, as his groom related, desired him to wait his return near that spot, while he pursued the school on foot. To his infinite satisfaction, he saw that his divinity was watching his movements, as she frequently turned her head; but he did not chuse, as yet, to enter into conversation with her; hoping, from her present behaviour, that she would soon afford him an opportunity of breathing his love tale in her ear *tête-à-tête.* Affecting to be much warmer than he really felt, he unbuttoned his great-coat, well aware that his star was infinitely more striking than his features, though he still bore evident traces of having been a very handsome man.

At present, however, he merely wished to see the party housed, meaning to reconnoitre at some future time, and to make a few enquiries respecting the object of his present adoration; and at last he saw them enter a very handsome house, in front of which was a large board, which informed

him that it was " Mrs. Sackville's boarding-school for young ladies."

Not being, however, satisfied respecting his charmer, having buttoned his great-coat, he walked into a very decent-looking public-house, at the corner of the same row, and having called for a glass of brandy and water, he asked the landlady " whether she knew a lady of the name of Sackville, who lived in the neighbourhood, he had been informed, and who kept a boarding-school for young ladies ?"

The landlady immediately replied in the affirmative; adding, " we serve the house."

" I have heard her highly spoken of," resumed the Peer; " but not by any one upon whom I can absolutely depend; and as I have a daughter, whom I have been advised to place under her care, I thought it most prudent to make a few enquiries in her immediate vicinity; and as you appear to have children of your own, I trust you will be perfectly candid, my good Madam, as you may rely upon my discretion;—

therefore,

therefore, would you or would you not place a daughter of your own under her care ?"

"Why, Sir, you certainly look like a real gentleman; and I dare say you would scorn to injure any one who spoke their real sentiments to oblige you, as we live by our calling, as a body may say, and ought to speak well of the bridge that carries us safe over; that, however, may be as it turns out," casting her eyes towards a large slate covered with figures, which were wholly unintelligible to the person she was addressing, while she thus continued:— "Four pounds seven shillings, besides odd halfpence, is no great sum, to be sure; but twice four makes eight, and we must pay our brewer and distiller, whether our customers pay us or not. Mrs. Sackville has not been here above eighteen months, therefore she has certainly hardly had time to turn round yet; and I dare say she will rub off her score as soon as she can; still, "while the grass grows, the steed starves;"

and, at this season of the year, trade is very dull in this quarter."

The Marquis listened, with tolerable patience, to this statement, which was certainly not very favourable to the schoolmistress. Wishing, however, to render the landlady his friend, he took out his purse, and putting down five guineas, said—"I can feel for you, I assure you, my good Madam; giving such long credits is very hurtful to industrious people; therefore accept that trifle, in case Mrs. Sackville should not yet be able to settle with you, and tell me honestly, whether you would advise me to place a girl, to whom I can give a few thousands when she marries, under her care?"

"Why, then, Sir, in return for your generous present, for which I humbly thank you, I would not."

"That is coming to the point; and I am obliged to you for your plain dealing;—but now, pray tell me what family she has?"

"Only

"Only two sons, and they are both in the navy, and very extravagant youths, so they may keep her poor; and she has lately set up a school, to keep the wolf from the door; and she may have about fifteen boarders, and as many day scholars; but she ant very clever, I am told, so is eat out of house and home by masters and assistants; for she has two of them, which is certainly too much by one half for her school; but 'tis said that one of them, and a beautiful girl she is, does not receive any salary, only lessons from the masters, to qualify her for being a governess in a nobleman's family.—Talking of the d-v-l," she went on, "why here she comes; you can see her from my bar window, Sir, as it commands both roads."

Cautiously stepping forward, the Peer was again blessed with a full view of his divinity; she was alone; therefore catching up his glass of liquor, he took a hearty draught, then said—"I must have another

look at her; she is going to town, I suppose."

"Oh dear, no; her mother lodges just by; she is going to see her, I dare say."

Anxious as his Lordship was to be rather more *au fait* of her family history, he did not chuse to lose so favourable an opportunity of addressing her; therefore the moment she had turned the corner, he walked after her; and having soon overtaken her, he thought he had never before seen so lovely nor so truly modest a girl. Before he ventured to address her, he unbuttoned his great-coat; of course she immediately recognised him, and made a polite reply to his hyperbolical compliment, feeling flattered at being thus noticed by a man of such rank, who soon gave her to understand that she had robbed him of his heart, with many equally gallant speeches, all tending to render her extremely vain of her charms.

Fortunately for the future Marchioness, she

she seldom talked much to strangers, and her inamorata attributed to modesty what was simply the effect of *mauvaise honte*.—She did, however, venture to inform him that she was going to see her mother. He petitioned, however, so hard for a few minutes private conversation, that she suffered him to draw her arm under his, and to lead her into some fields, at a distance from where she was going.

Having of course, in the first instance, no intention of conferring his title upon her, he soon delicately gave her to understand that he was a widower of rank and fortune, and that he would provide for her in the most ample manner, if she would suffer him to place her in an elegant retreat, where he could visit her at his leisure.

She thanked him for his polite offers, but declared she would never bring disgrace upon her family and connexions, as she hoped soon to be placed in a very eligible situation; and, at all events, she would never lead a life of infamy, even to enjoy

every luxury; for there was a degree of cunning in her composition, which taught her to set a due value upon her charms.

The Marquis, for the first time, began to suspect he grew old, and was dubious whether he should employ a female agent to silence the syren's scruples, or whether he should endeavour to silence her silly scruples himself; and he did succeed in making her promise to meet him again the following day, at the same hour, and at the same place. We shall not dwell upon his feelings during the interval, as we think it necessary to inform our readers, that Jemima Lenham was the second daughter of a man who had, for upwards of thirty years, held a place under Government; yet when he died, about eighteen months before his daughter fell in Lord Derwent's way, he had left but a very slender pittance for his widow and two children. The elder had been, for some time, a half boarder at a school of some eminence; and when their mother's cousin, Mrs. Sackville, set up in the same

same line, she became her assistant; and Jemima was engaged as a sort of drudge, to catch what she could from the masters, and to fag on till she was deemed capable of taking a teacher's place in some equally well-conducted seminary. Mrs. Lenham, therefore, very eagerly listened to her detail respecting her antiquated admirer;—and it was agreed that Mrs. Sackville should be consulted, and that every lure should be held out to induce the old gentleman to give the lovely girl a legal right to his name, for such an event would be the making of them all; since, though Jemima did not lack lovers, they were none of them inclined to mention matrimony to her;—and the one most in favour (who was a clerk in the house of Melbourne, Dorville, and Co.) hoped he should, ere long, obtain her upon easier terms.

Mrs. Lenham and her cousin were well aware of this, and prudently resolved that she should, in preference, capitulate to the *Knight of the Polar Star*, if they could not

induce him to marry her. Jemima was therefore properly tutored; and adorned for conquest, was suffered to rivet her ancient admirer's chains. We shall not, however, detail how Mrs. Lenham and Mrs. Sackville managed matters, since the result of their plans is already known. Suffice it to say, that they fanned the Marquis's amorous flame into such a blaze, and talked so much about family reputation, &c. that at the expiration of three weeks, just as they were on the point of yielding to his terms, he proposed marriage. They had of course learnt who he was, &c. &c. their triumph was therefore complete, as he promised to allow Mrs. Lenham four hundred a-year for life, and to settle a couple of thousand pounds upon her eldest daughter, who was, for the present, to reside with her sister; offering, besides, to make a very handsome settlement upon the fair Jemima, who could neither think nor dream of any thing but her coronet, going to court, and her fine cloaths; and very much

much against her will did she keep her good fortune a secret; but this was one of the Marquis's conditions, which none of her relatives would suffer her to infringe.—She therefore merely displayed her increasing consequence to Mrs. Sackville's scholars, who fortunately did not understand her half hints, else her splendid fabric might have fallen to the ground.

Her favourite lover continued to call very frequently at Mrs. Sackville's, as he had a sister at school there; and luckily the loquacious landlady had not had time to expatiate upon his fair mistress's levity and coquetry, which she might have mentioned in such gross terms, she would certainly have deterred the Peer from offering her his hand. Nay, 'tis very probable that her inuendoes might have induced him to give up the chace. Be that as it may, she now treated the clerk with infinite disdain, absolutely refusing to walk with him; nay, even to accept of an order for the play; fully giving him to understand that she

should soon look down upon all her former acquaintance.

It might have been supposed that these airs would have effectually cooled her admirer's passion. They had, however, a very contrary effect; and he had it actually in contemplation to make her an offer of his hand, and of his pen for her support, when he read a very pompous account of her marriage in one of the morning papers, which the Marquis himself had sent for insertion, and in which Miss Jemima Lenham was styled the youngest daughter of the late James Lenham, Esq. with various other equally absurd boasts.

Poor Marshall stood amazed, and was, as may be supposed, most gloriously rallied by his fellow clerks: even Mr. Melbourne, the father of the Charlotte Melbourne we have already introduced to our readers, who was a gay, good-humoured *bon vivant*, and rather distantly related to Marshall, joined in laughing at him upon this occasion, having understood that Jemima Lenham

ham had long been his standing toast.—He was, however, soon consoled with the reflection, that he might perhaps profit by her good fortune, if he did but play his cards well, as he could not blame his mistress for giving her hand to so great a man, feeling well assured that her heart was not included in the gift, resolving to take an early opportunity of telling Mrs. Sackville that he was resolved to die a bachelor for her sake, being well assured that she would mention his intended constancy to the fair bride, who had, as we have already said, left town with her enamoured *cara sposo*. Her mother and sister had accompanied them to Derwent House, where we shall leave them to conclude the honey-moon, while we return to the hero of our tale.

CHAP.

CHAP. VI.

Lord Dunluce was, it may be believed, among the most diverted at his grandfather's marriage, as it was soon generally known that the Marchioness's pretensions to family were extremely slender, and that her cousin still kept a school at Camden Town; and we must acknowledge that the Viscount was among the first to circulate what he styled anecdotes of the Lenham family; and positively had it in contemplation to write a tale or novel, founded upon this disproportionate match. The Marquis advised him to recommend it to the notice of the author of the barouche-driver

driver and his wife, as his frequent repetitions were growing nauseous: but having appeared at the birth-day, our hero was soon introduced into all the first circles, as a single man of his rank, figure, and fortune, was a very desirable acquisition to the world of fashion; and as he wished to avoid singularity, he seldom either dined or supped at home; still he frequently visited Juliano, whom he soon discovered was a most excellent scholar, perfectly versed in the dead languages, and familiar with every author of antiquity; and he was now reading the best English authors, under the direction of his language master. He was also a great proficient in drawing, he found, which he had learned in Italy; and to beguile his leisure hours, he frequently, from recollection, drew sketches of the scenery round the convent at Milan; and shewed our hero a very exact representation of his prison at the Priory, and very good likenesses of Father Benedetto and Francisco. Since his arrival in London, he

he had made a point of accompanying his host to church; and the better he understood English, the more he relished the doctrine preached by the ministers of the church of England, he told our hero; acknowledging that the scenes he had witnessed in the monastery abroad, the Prior's treachery, and Father Benedetto's cruel treatment of him, had made him resolve to abjure what he deemed his errors, since a Protestant had been his saviour; and that faith must be best, which led to such deeds of charity.

The Marquis was not surprised at his having imbibed such a rooted dislike to Catholics; and as he knew Mr. Langhton could not disinherit him, admitting that it was proved he was his grandson, he rather encouraged him in his wish to profess the same faith he did; and, to his infinite joy, his friend, Dr. Campbell, arrived in town the first week in February, having been highly gratified by the pressing invitation he had received, which convinced him that neither

neither his nor the late Lord Endermay's precepts and advice, had been thrown away upon the present, who greeted him, as he would have done his late grandfather, rejoicing in the certainty that he should have such a friend and guide always at hand, to consult upon any emergency.

Having laughed with him at his grandfather's recent marriage, and acknowledged he was very impatient to see his youthful grandmother, whom his uncle had declared must be almost more than mortal, to have drawn the Marquis in to marry her, since she had neither family nor fortune to recommend her to his notice, he listened to the Doctor's account of the improvements which were making in the park and home grounds at Montrose Castle; and was happy to find that his charitable institutions perfectly answered the purpose which had led to their formation; and that all his tenants and dependants were satisfied with him, and apparently with their own lot in life. He next reverted to the Murray family,

mily, and the Doctor declared his intention of renewing his acquaintance with his former friend the first opportunity.

Being, however, extremely anxious to take his advice respecting Juliano, they had no sooner breakfasted the following morning, than he proposed a walk to the Doctor, who made no objection, though he was rather surprised at the Marquis's not mentioning whither he proposed bending his steps; and still more so when he turned into the snuff-shop in Wells-street.

Alick was not at home, and Janet merely curtsied behind the counter, desiring one of the children to open the door leading into the passage. The Doctor followed his former pupil in silence, convinced that he would not keep a mistress in so mean a situation, nor, if he did, would he have brought him to visit her, when the dining-room door was opened by Juliano, who exclaimed—"I thought I knew your Lordship's step, which is always music to my ear;" but seemed rather astonished when he

he caught sight of the Doctor, though he instantly presumed he was the gentleman to whom the Marquis had talked of introducing him, which our hero did, the moment they were within the room.

" A particular friend of mine, Doctor, to whom you will be as partial as I am, when you know as much of him—Dr. Campbell, my dear Juliano, my former tutor and present Mentor, and who will always rank among my best friends."

" Your Lordship had prepared me to revere and respect this gentleman," was the reply, placing chairs for his guests.

The Doctor, who had been to the full as much struck with the astonishing likeness Juliano bore the late Lord William Albany, instantly guessed that he was a natural son of his, whom our hero had recently discovered, and taken under his protection. Not chusing, however, to mention his suspicions, he merely said—" I could almost persuade myself I had seen this young gentleman

tleman before, his features are so familiar to me."

The Marquis's countenance expressed his satisfaction, while Juliano, shaking his head, said—" I am certain we never met before, Doctor; my bad English must have informed you that I am a foreigner. I was born, as I suppose, in Italy; and though I have been for some years in England, till very lately I have been a close prisoner; and such I should have remained, probably till my death, had not the Marquis of Endermay taken pity upon me; and to his munificence——."

" Hold, hold, my dear fellow; I did not bring my worthy friend here to listen to my praises; nor have I yet informed him when and where you and I became acquainted, though I requested he would join me in town, as I wished to consult him respecting what we have in agitation; so when he has heard my story, you shall tell him your's, but without any Italian superlatives, as I know

know my Mentor will merely think I did my duty; so now tell me what author you are reading?"

"Hume's History of England, my Lord; and I am translating Guicardine's History of Italy into English," producing his work.

"Upon my honour, I give you great credit for your diligence.—Read this over, Doctor, and let me assure you that my friend could not make himself understood, except in Greek, Latin, and Italian, three months ago."

"A thorough knowledge of the dead languages greatly facilitates the acquirement of those in general use," was the reply, taking the sheet, and bestowing some very deserved and just encomiums upon the translator, whom the Marquis drew on, to display his real fund of knowledge.—The Doctor was astonished, but forbore making many remarks; merely observing, that the young gentleman appeared to have made excellent use of his time, and to do infinite honour to his instructors. Juliano bowed in silence,

silence, and wished he dared have told the Doctor how much he was indebted to his youthful benefactor. His eyes were, however, so expressive, when turned upon the Marquis, that the Doctor grew every moment more impatient to learn his story, and felt extremely happy, when our hero, who was no less anxious to relate it, rose to depart, telling his *protegée* he should send him some books he had purchased for him in the evening.

"With what delight shall I read any of your selecting, my generous benefactor!—Oh, Doctor, you can never know, because I can never tell you, for the want of words sufficiently expressive, how much I am indebted to Lord Endermay."

"You shall tell the Doctor every thing to-morrow," replied our hero, kindly pressing his hand.—"I shall request he will spend some time with you, and he will soon convince you that he would have done as much, or more for you, had he had the same opportunity."

Juliano

Juliano made no reply, but preceded them to the street-door, which he opened for them.

The Marquis again shook hands with him, saying—" I desire you would take more exercise;" and no sooner were they out of hearing, than he hastily asked the Doctor who his young friend had reminded him of?

" Of your father, the late Lord William Albany. Indeed I could almost have sworn it had been him risen from the dead. He is a natural son of his, I presume, whom you have recently discovered, and towards whom you have proved yourself a brother."

" How rejoiced I am to find you have also remarked the wonderful resemblance, since I now firmly believe he is my father's second son, and born in wedlock; but I will explain myself more fully when we reach home."

" You have indeed strangely raised my curiosity. Indeed I am quite bewildered.

Do

Do you suspect him to be the son of Lady William Albany?"

"I do; and that the one who now appears as such usurps his place."

"Astonishing!"

"You shall judge for yourself, as I wished to take your advice, before I ventured to assert his rights, or to promulgate my suspicions."

The moment, therefore, they reached home, the Marquis gave orders to be denied to every body, and then briefly informed his friend what induced him to explore the mysterious turret, what had been the consequences of his visit, forcibly dwelling upon the Padre's behaviour when he discovered the escape of his victim; and he next related when and where he had been attacked, with an intent to murder him, and his having wished to affix the guilt upon his supposed nephew, in absolute contradiction of his former assertions; acknowledging that both him and Juliano suspected

suspected the Prior was the assassin; and concluding by assuring the Doctor that he had not given his *protegée* the least hint of his suspicions respecting his birth, since it would have been extremely cruel to have raised hopes which it would certainly be a very difficult matter to realize; requesting the Doctor's advice how to proceed.

"I never felt more interested for any one, my dear pupil.—I rejoice that you did not apply to me for counsel, before you liberated your wronged brother, for that I am convinced he is, as I fear I should have condemned your spirit of romance, and advised you to have had recourse to legal means, which might have proved the prisoner's death-warrant, since monks of every denomination, and Jesuits in particular, are renowned for their art, hypocrisy, and dissimulation; and the Padre has too much reason to dread an investigation of his conduct, to meet it very calmly. Mr. Langhton has evidently been completely his dupe; so has Lady William, as

I rather suppose the spurious Mr. Albany is his nephew. I well remember Belthorpe saying, at the Priory, he did not resemble his father's family: when and where the children were exchanged, remains to be ascertained. Did Lady William suckle her son, do you know?"

"I understood not; but he was nursed in the house, I should suppose."

"Juliano must have been carried to Italy in his infancy, which was certainly a very prudent precaution. I only wonder the Padre ever suffered him to return; it would have been more politic to have left him to the mercy of the French; but, like all such beings, he was over-cautious, and his needless precautions first led to conjectures; then to the discomfiture of his iniquitous plans: yet I am positively at a loss how to advise you to proceed; to do so legally, I rather think you must apply to the Chancellor; and how far Mr. Langhton might be implicated in the business, I cannot take upon me to say; since, by conniving

conniving at the monk's confining his supposed nephew, I am fearful he would be considered as his accomplice; and the world in general will hardly believe that a man of his age would so implicitly submit to the controul of an inferior."

"I have made all those reflections, Doctor; and I want to devise some scheme to induce the old monk to confess the truth, without attacking him in Chancery; since I acquit Mr. Langhton of having wilfully acted wrong, though his blind confidence in the Father may expose him to censure in a court of justice; and I stand pledged to come forward in his behalf, should Juliano ever call his supposed uncle to an account; it would therefore be infinitely more congenial to my feelings, to frighten the Padre into making an open confession, than to have recourse to the law."

"It would certainly be infinitely preferable, upon many accounts; but how to do so, is the difficulty; but as all the Albany family are more or less concerned in

this strange business, I should advise your relating every circumstance to Lord Algernon; as the guardian of his brother's younger children, I am sure he will assert their rights."

"I am convinced he will; and he was so disappointed in his godson, that I am sure he will rejoice when he learns that he has probably been imposed upon in that respect; I will wait upon him this evening, and enter into every necessary detail."

"I wish he could see your *protegée* first; I am convinced he will be equally struck with the likeness; and I think we ought to hear what he will say upon the subject, before we impart our own suspicions to him."

"An excellent idea, Doctor; I will invite my uncle to breakfast with me to-morrow morning. Juliano shall give him the meeting, and I will then, under pretence of private business, withdraw with the Earl, who will doubtless inform me whether he is as much struck with the resemblance as we have been, which will lead to my giving him

him the heads of this strange story; and you can, meanwhile, be hearing Juliano's own account of himself."

"An excellent arrangement, my dear pupil. Surely, amongst us, we shall be able to devise some scheme likely to answer our purpose, as I am very averse to calling in the aid of the law, except to alarm the Padre. But tell me, you who never saw your father, how came you to be so struck with the wonderful resemblance your *protegée* bears him?"

"I have frequently considered his pictures, Doctor; and Donald, having excited my suspicions of the fact, I put this miniature in my pocket, the first time I went into Wells-street; and I could almost have supposed it had been done for the person I met there."

"It is extremely like him; the derangement of the hair greatly favours the resemblance, which will indubitably strike the Earl, and render him zealous in the cause."

Our hero, therefore, went into Portland

land-place in the evening. The Earl was at home, but engaged with company; he therefore requested he would do him the favour to breakfast with him the next morning, as he had something of importance to communicate.

"Depend upon seeing me by half past ten," was the reply.

The Marquis immediately took his leave, and, upon his return home, sent Donald into Wells-street, to invite Juliano to meet his uncle. The valet, of his own accord, offered to fetch him in the morning, and to preside at his toilette, to which the youth thankfully assented; and, by ten o'clock, he was shewn into the breakfast-parlour in Arlington-street. He had not, it may be supposed, the polished manners of his host; but his innate wish to oblige, and a certain hereditary gracefulness, which had certainly descended from father to son, in this instance, made him appear to infinite more advantage than his representative had ever done; he was very well dressed for a morning; and as Lord William had always worn

powder,

powder, Donald had, for the first time, thrown some into his hair, which, as he had expected, greatly increased the resemblance between them. He had entered into a very animated conversation with our hero, when the Earl was announced, whom of course he rose to receive; and as he had purposely been placed opposite the door, his Lordship unconsciously retreated, when he first caught sight of him, and looked so earnestly at our hero for an explanation, that both him and Dr. Campbell were convinced he had instantly remarked the likeness.

"A young friend of mine, uncle, in whose behalf I wish to interest you; after breakfast I will inform you why I invited you to meet him."

"The Earl of Algernon, my dear Juliano, my father's elder brother."

Dr. Campbell now addressed the astonished Earl, who was unable to withdraw his eyes from this living image of his deceased brother, during breakfast; and no

sooner was it over, than he requested to speak a few words in private to his nephew, who instantly led the way into the library, desiring Juliano would take upon him to entertain the Doctor during his absence.

"Who is that young fellow?" were the Earl's first words.—"Your father never had any natural children, at least to my knowledge, else—but you promised to explain why you asked me to meet him."

"I did, my dear Sir; and I should be inexcusable, were I to keep you in suspense; but to account for his being here, I must carry you back to Langhton Priory."

"To Langhton Priory!" cried the astonished Earl.

"Even so, my dear uncle; for there I found him; though it was at the risk of my neck, that I explored his prison."

"In prison, and at the Priory! then I do not scruple to pronounce him your brother; indeed the resemblance is obvious. But, for God's sake, explain how he came

came to be confined, and why that bumpkin, who now disgraces the name of Albany, usurps his place? Can Lady William Albany have——."

"Stop, my dear uncle; since, upon my honour, she was not aware that he was under the same roof with her, when I arrived at the Priory; but to make this perfectly clear, you must listen to my tale," detailing every incident he had previously related to Dr. Campbell.

"Astonishing!" cried the Earl, when he concluded—"You were certainly doomed to bring that vile monk's shameful deceptions to light. All that surprises me is, how he could manage to exchange the children: his nephew, if such he is, must have been brought from Italy; and your brother was sent back by the person who nursed the other; yet that must have been a work of time, and these children must have been changed immediately after their birth. Surely the Jesuit has not a familiar spirit at his beck and call, though I cannot

divine how he managed matters. The wretch might well be miserable, when his poor prisoner escaped. Possibly he flayed his own carcase, in hopes of mitigating the punishment he must be sensible hangs over him, since he must not be spared; though, if it can be avoided, I am, like you, averse to bringing the matter into a court of justice; yet I cannot see my favourite brother's son wronged, out of respect to Mr. Langhton's feelings—we will spare them as much as possible; but I must have your Juliano's rights clearly ascertained. What does Dr. Campbell advise?"

"He wishes to be guided by you, uncle."

"We must take counsel's opinion, in the first instance; those of the crown lawyers, I advise; and not to lead them into any errors, we must tell them the real truth; I will be answerable for their secrecy, till the matter is decided; but I require time for reflection; therefore I will now leave you; but I must take another look at your *protegée*; and suppose I meet him again at your

your house to-morrow evening—give me the abstract of his life home with me, and I will devote the interval to considering his case. Like the Doctor, I sincerely rejoice you did not ask my advice, in the first instance, as I fear I should have been more cautious, more cold-blooded than you were; but you are a noble fellow, and have rescued your brother from worse than death. Surely your father's spirit guided you to his prison, and inspired you with the generous idea of liberating him, and of providing for his future wants. But come, let us join him and the Doctor; I must tell him that you have rendered me his staunch friend;" which the Earl did, in the kindest manner, and was extremely pleased with the youth's answer, with whom our hero walked home, entering into various details respecting the Albany family, as they went along, not omitting his grandfather's recent marriage, and explaining to him how they came to be upon such distant terms with the Langhtons, speaking

very highly of the old gentleman, and doing ample justice to Lady William and Rosalie; slightly mentioning Algernon as a strict Catholic, and with whom he should never assimilate.

"And is he not aware of the blessing he enjoys, in having such a brother?" asked Juliano.

"The mere tie of blood does not always make people friends, my dear fellow. My uncle Albertus was not the friend of either of his brothers; and yet he must have esteemed Lord Algernon, and have loved my father, had he possessed their feelings: but remember you sup with me to-morrow; the Earl wishes to hear your story from your own mouth; and let what will be the result of our attempt to ascertain who you really are, you will ever find him your sincere friend. So adieu; I am engaged to a fashionable dinner, else I would have detained you in Arlington-street; so, by way of amusing yourself, *ad interim*, endeavour to sketch your friend the Prior's features.

features. If we could but find him, I think we might buy him over to our interest, as I strongly suspect he was only the accomplice of your still greater enemy,' Father Benedetto :—but I must be gone."

The gratified Juliano promised to do his utmost endeavours to oblige him, and thus they parted.

The following day our hero received a letter from Algernon Albany, who informed him that the Padre was in a very low way, and was often harping upon his poor nephew, whom he feared was returned to Italy, where he would certainly be murdered by those vile French infidels—as if he could be worse off, he continued, than while cooped up in the observatory. For his own part, he hoped the poor fellow had fallen into some friendly hands, who would call *Benny* over the coals some time or other. As it was, he had lost much of his influence over the household, and particularly with his grandfather, who was always sounding his (Lord Endermay's) praises; so was Belthorpe, who was in very high

high spirits, and who hoped that, ere long, the Padre would set out to seek his lost sheep in the regions below, as they both doubted his ever mounting aloft, notwithstanding he flogged away with heart and good-will every night, and mumbled over his beads at every touch and turn; concluding, as usual, with hoping that he should soon join his dear brother in London.

Dr. Campbell thought it very possible the Father might shorten his days; therefore felt anxious to have him pressed to unburthen his mind.

The Earl was punctual to his appointment. Juliano had drank his tea with his kind friends, and once more related all he knew of himself; and finally produced a very good design of the Prior, who had brought him over. His family name he was unacquainted with; he merely knew him as Father Antonio; accurately describing the situation of the monastery; and he also gave so good an account of the inn at which they had stopped at Bristol, that

that the Earl was convinced it was the Rummer; therefore should it be necessary, he thought that might be easily ascertained; and at the Alien Office they should indubitably learn whether the Prior of the Carthusian Monastery of the Spirito Sancto, in the suburbs of Milan, was in England; as from him they might be able to obtain some very important information.

Juliano declared he should rejoice at being confronted with him, as he could not conceive what could have induced him to have acted so treacherously towards him, after having, for so many years, affected to be his friend, and even appeared to like him.

"He might not know that Father Benedetto meant to confine you," said Dr. Campbell.—"At all events, could we find him, he might be tempted to turn evidence against your gaoler, which would save us a great deal of trouble."

Juliano expressed his gratitude towards all the gentlemen, for their very kind intentions in his favour, but acknowledged that

that he feared, though probably he was not Father Benedetto's nephew, he was the illegitimate offspring of some priest, who had doomed him to a life of seclusion, perhaps in consequence of a vow, to which he had certainly strictly adhered, when he placed him under the care of the Padre.

His auditors dared not tell him that they were of a very different opinion; and at a late hour they separated.

Next morning, Dr. Campbell took upon himself to make the necessary enquiries at the Alien Office. No one knew the Prior, as superior of the monastery of Spirito Sancto; but when he produced the sketch of his features, which Juliano had drawn, some of the clerks said he had probably resumed his family name, as that picture resembled a Mr. Mordini, an Italian, who had been in England much about the time the Doctor mentioned, and who lived at Somers Town, and taught the Italian language; but as he did not receive any thing from Government, and had never been

been denounced as a spy, very little was known about him; enquiring why the Doctor had asked after him?

"In consequence of a friend having desired him," he said; "but not to lodge any complaint against him."

Resolving, however, to be satisfied, he proceeded to Somers Town, and soon found the house to which he had been directed; but there he was informed that Mr. Mordini was gone to Bath or Bristol for his health, and had, they presumed, sent notice of his intention to the Alien Office.

"Most probably," replied the Doctor.—"Pray how long has he been gone?"

"About two months, Sir."

"Pray is this picture like him? as I am not certain whether there are not more of the same name."

"Oh, that was done for him, I could take my oath," said the master of the house, who now joined in the debate.—"That's his hook nose, to a T;" and with this not very satisfactory intelligence, the Doctor proceeded

proceeded into Portland-place, where the Marquis had promised to give him the meeting at one o'clock. Having given in his report—" I am convinced he is gone down to concert measures with that infernal old Jesuit," cried the Earl.—" He was aware that Juliano knew with whom he came to England, so he sent for this precious Prior, to invent some lie, in case he should be called to an account."

" But where can the Padre Antonio, or rather Mordini, be ?" said our hero.—" No foreigner can now take up their abode any where, without giving notice of their intentions at the Alien Office; and surely the old Jesuit dare not secrete him in Juliano's late prison."

" I should not wonder if he had," said Dr. Campbell.—" At all events, I do not think it will be prudent to give in our report at the Office, since, should any researches be set on foot for the Prior, it will put both the monks upon their guard, and they may find means to leave England.

The

The people at Somers Town expect Mordini home again in another month, and I think it very likely he may return, as he must live in fear, even in Juliano's late prison; and such a state of confinement will soon become very irksome."

"There is great reason in what you say, Doctor," rejoined the Earl; "and we need not attack Benedetto, till we see whether his accomplice returns. Has he ever written to his landlord?"

"Once from Bath, he told me."

"Then we will wait another month before we apply to counsel, since, that once done, I shall be all impatience to bring matters to an issue; and should the old Jesuit grow worse, I will go down myself, and accuse him point blank of having exchanged the children."

"But may not he dare your Lordship to prove his having done so?" rejoined the Doctor; "and remember how long the Douglas cause was thought very dubious; though

though every one agreed the claimant was the image of his mother."

"Agreed; and as I suppose we shall have Algernon Albany in town, before we can commence our attack, why we must be civil to the poor being, who is not to blame for the monk's villainy."

"By no means, uncle," cried the Marquis; "and I am convinced that, should it be proved he has no claim to the name of Albany, he will be amply provided for by his successor. At all events, I will place him above want, though, even when I thought him my brother, I never felt very cordially inclined towards him; nor perhaps shall I do so, till it is ascertained, beyond a doubt, that he is not related to me; then he shall find me his friend."

"I admire your frankness, and I promise you I will follow your lead. In the meanwhile, Dr. Campbell, as most competent to the task, will you draw up a correct statement of every circumstance respecting Juliano,

liano, that ought to be submitted to counsel? since, upon second thoughts, we had better not delay making his situation known; and I have not allotted you a very easy task."

"It will prove a very grateful one to my feelings, my Lord, though it will take me some days to digest my materials, and put them into proper form; and even then, much will be left for your Lordship to explain."

"Agreed, and I will endeavour to second our joint favourite's kind endeavours, to the best of my abilities;" and thus they separated for the present.

CHAP.

CHAP. VII.

During the course of the ensuing week, Lady Winifred answered Lord Algernon's letter, and declared herself, as he expected, extremely displeased at her brother having, so late in life, married his mistress; for such, she made no doubt, Miss Jemima Lenham had been, as she was not so easily imposed upon, as he (Lord Algernon) appeared to have been. Fearful her having imbibed such a notion would prevent her from coming to town, the Earl took some pains to convince her that she was mistaken; as he was well convinced, he assured her, that his father would never have given

given a mistress a legal claim to his name, as he made no doubt of the Marchioness of Derwent's being presented at St. James's, and received, with the respect due to her rank, in the fashionable circles. Lady Winifred therefore hoped the connexion was not quite so scandalous as it had at first appeared, and set about preparing for her London journey; while her new married brother, having spent three weeks in Cheshire (during which period, we are sorry to say, he more than once repented having bestowed his name upon his fair, but weak vain bride), returned into St. James's-square, fearful that the new-made Marchioness would often put him to the blush, and wishing that he could have left her in the country, while he dashed into all the pleasures of high life, in spite of grey hairs and increasing years; but were he to leave her in Cheshire, it would be publicly declaring he was ashamed of his choice; and he felt that he must still affect to be the lover, though already cloyed with

with the sweets of possession. Resolved, however, to put a good face upon the matter, he left cards, the morning after his return to town, in Portland-place and Arlington-street; and assured his bride, that he should highly resent any slight that might be shewn her, by any member of his family; though he much feared that, should they notice her, her weak brain would be completely turned; still, as he had played the fool, why he must introduce the Marchioness into the world; and if the Countess of Algernon was polite enough to overlook her deficiencies, she would certainly give her consequence, in the circle in which she would henceforth move, and would effectually prevent her from being followed by any of those gay sparks of fashion, who would glory in making him repent having married a young uninformed girl, merely because she was very handsome.

While he was thus execrating his own folly, his fair bride was anticipating the pleasures she had in store, and fully expecting

pecting to be the reigning belle of fashion during the season, as she knew she was extremely handsome, and was by no means aware of her own deficiencies; and though certainly not deficient in low cunning, she was silly enough to fancy that she should rule her Lord with unbounded sway; and certainly many young women have rendered old husbands their slaves: but unfortunately Lord Derwent was already tired of his bargain, and looking out for a new face to console him for his folly; of course she stood no chance of governing a man, over whom she had lost all her influence during the honey-moon.

Our hero and the Earl having compared notes, they agreed to return the bridegroom's visit the following morning. Lord Dunluce would fain have accompanied his father, as he was dying with impatience to see his grandmother. The Earl put, however, a decided negative upon his request, and the Countess also censured it as very indiscreet, since he must be aware that the

Marquis would attribute his visit to the true motive; he was therefore, much against his will, obliged to have recourse to patience; and, as had been agreed upon, the Earl drove into St. James's-square, between twelve and one, wishing to precede our hero, that their meeting there might not appear preconcerted.

Lord Derwent received him in his library, and expressed his satisfaction at so early a visit; cutting short his congratulations, by a few indirect apologies for the folly he had been guilty of; adding—"When you have seen the Marchioness, you will not wonder at her having turned my brain."

The Earl assured him, in reply, "That he had already formed a very high opinion of the bride;" and as he found his father meant she should be presented at court, readily promised to ensure her the countenance of Lady Algernon; gaily hinting, she had better be introduced at St. James's by the Lady in Waiting.

The

The Marquis took the raillery in very good part, and was glossing over her want of family very ingeniously, when the Marquis of Endermay was announced; and certainly he had no reason to find fault with the reception he met with, as the old gentleman seemed extremely anxious to make him amends for his past neglect, hoping he should often see him in the square, as he meant, in future, to lead a very domestic life.

Our hero begged leave to congratulate him upon his nuptials; and as he kept his countenance, the old Peer hoped he saw nothing ridiculous in his having again entered the matrimonial pale; but feeling conscious of having acted very absurdly, he said, in a gay tone—"I can only rejoice you never fell in with Lady Derwent, Marquis, before I had the happiness of calling her mine, as I am convinced you will pronounce her a most beautiful woman. She has been extremely well brought up, by a

most excellent mother; and indeed she enjoyed many advantages, since one of her nearest relations is mistress of a very fashionable seminary for young ladies near London; though, to be very honest, I should not be thus candid in any other company; but I certainly did attempt to storm the citadel; it was, however, too ably defended, to surrender to my offers; and as I could not deny myself the lady, I took her upon her own terms; therefore I may say, without a vain boast, that she is a woman of real principle. I hope you soon mean to follow my example, Marquis; that is, to marry for love; then you cannot fail of being happy: you do not want money; and the man gives consequence to the woman. My sister was in hopes you would bestow your name upon your cousin; I had a better opinion of your taste. She has money enough to buy a needy Peer; and I should have grieved, had you selected her to perpetuate your race—But talking

ing of Lady Winifred, what does she say to my having married again? Have you heard from her lately, Lord Algernon?"

"I had a letter from her yesterday, Sir. She certainly was surprised, when she learnt that you had again entered the holy pale, but is now, I believe, very anxious to be introduced to the Marchioness of Derwent; and I hope, in another fortnight, her wish will be gratified, as I am looking out for a ready-furnished house for her; she could not be prevailed upon to take up her abode in Portland-place; nor would she accept of Lord Endermay's house, though he offered to give it up entirely to her; but she fancied she should not feel herself at home."

"I dare say she was fearful the world might fancy she was too partial to this fine young fellow. Besides, she never could have made up her mind to her ward's taking up her abode in the house of a single man. But you have visited Langhton Priory since your return to England, Marquis;—

and if I understood Lady Win, your sister is to accompany her to London;—therefore the old monk does not mean to make an absolute recluse of her. Is your brother also to emerge from his prison-house?"

Our hero told him how matters had been settled by Mr. Langhton and Lady Winifred; and though the Marquis was ashamed to say so, he sincerely wished his three hitherto-unknown grandchildren had deferred their journey to London, as he knew the witlings of fashion could not fail to notice their relationship to his bride, who was in fact younger than any of them, and whom he now proposed introducing to his visitors, leading the way into her boudoir, where she and her sister were anxiously waiting their approach; and both uncle and nephew thought her inimitably handsome, and not a bad figure. When she rose to receive them, the Marquis introduced them by their respective titles, without adding the degree of relationship in

which

which they stood to him; and having paid the lady the accustomed compliments, they took possession of the chairs which had been placed for them, and the conversation became general.

The bride spoke but little, though she wished to have displayed her knowledge of fashionable life, which was merely gleaned from some of those popular novels Mr. Hughes has so kindly introduced to the public notice. The old Marquis being fully aware of this, generally silenced her with "my dear, you are as yet a mere novice in fashionable life; and I should be very sorry, were you to exchange your present simplicity for the *nonchalance* of a woman of ton, who are in general the most insipid companions that can be met with. What say you, Algernon?"

The Earl agreed that a mere woman of fashion was a very unpleasant companion; which led to Lord Derwent bestowing a very deserved panegyric upon his Countess, while our hero scrutinized the fair

bride, who frequently favoured him with a sort of under look, which did not greatly raise her in his esteem, and led him to apprehend that she would soon make her *Sir Peter Teazle* heartily repent his precipitancy. Having sat for some time, and heard that the new-married man meant to give a splendid fête during the spring to the world of fashion, the uncle and nephew rose to depart, and left the house together.

"Well, what think you of your *grandmama?*" asked the Earl, as they arm in arm walked up the square, having dismissed their carriages.

"That she is very handsome, and that is all I can say in her favour; for she appears to me to be ignorant and illiterate, instead of highly accomplished, as my grandfather gave us to understand. Positively the lady he once had in keeping, at whose house I first saw him, was a far preferable companion, and would, I dare say, have made him a better wife."

"I dare believe she would," was the reply;

ply; "as this one will soon, nay, has already made him repent of his folly. Indeed she strikes me as being a very strange compound, and is so vulgarly polite, so ignorant, and yet so cunning, or she could not have drawn him in to marry her, that though certainly very young, and very handsome, she would never have won my heart; and as the pride of acquired rank will soon, nay, is already blended with the obstinacy of ignorance, the Marquis will be completely ashamed of her in another month; and as I am convinced that vanity is her ruling passion, and coquetry her foible (for I remarked the under looks, or rather leers, she bestowed upon you), I shall think him very fortunate, if he has merely to blush for her folly."

"You are positively severe upon the poor bride, uncle; though I own she by no means answered my expectations, as I expected to have seen the Medician Venus stepped into life, and a far more accomplished woman than the mistress whose dis-

missal I so innocently occasioned, since I should have supposed the woman upon whom Lord Derwent had bestowed his hand, would have been very superior to what she is."

"He has been duped into playing the fool, I would venture any wager; for had he been in less haste, he would have had the lady upon his own terms, or I am very much mistaken. The sister is certainly an excellent foil, though I do not think her quite so ignorant as the bride; but she has an equal share of self-sufficiency."

Having reached Portland-place, while thus descanting upon the merits of the new-married couple, the Marquis went in to pay his respects to his aunt, who presumed, as they made so long a visit, they had found the Marchioness a paragon of perfection.

The Earl instantly related all that had passed, and then gave her his real opinion of the bride; so did our hero, to whom she next appealed.

"You

"You both saw her with prejudiced eyes—she was a mother-in-law; that was sufficient for you, Algernon; and our nephew could not see any merit in a grandmother: had she been the wife of any other man, you would both have been eloquent in praise of her beauty."

"Very possibly," said the Earl; "as I own I had rather she should have married any other Peer, since we may now have to blush for her, as well as her husband."

"I will pay her an early visit," said the Countess, "and give her a little useful advice, as I hope she will make a better wife than you seem to think. I shall make great allowances for her ignorance, and do hope to convince you that you have been mistaken in your conjectures respecting her."

"I sincerely wish you may," was the reply.

Our hero thought Lady Algernon's advice would have the happiest effect, retiring soon after to communicate his opinion

of his grandmother to Dr. Campbell, who devoted his mornings to drawing up an abstract of Juliano's story, which he had not arranged to his mind, as it was necessary to enter into a variety of desultory details respecting the Langhton family; when our hero, who was sitting with him in the library, while he was thus employed, a few days after he had paid his devoirs to his youthful grandmother, was extremely surprised at having a packet from India delivered to him, addressed to his deceased grandfather; which proved to be the duplicate of one which had never come to hand, from General Umfreville, a brother of his grandmother's, and brother by marriage to the person whom he addressed, whom our hero had never seen, nor seldom heard mentioned, since, having, like the late Lord William Albany, run through a very large fortune, at the age of thirty, he went, as a last resource, to India, in a military capacity; and as the British settlements were then involved in a war with some of the native

native Princes, he had frequent opportunities of displaying his skill and valour, to so much advantage, that he was soon promoted to the command of a regiment, and had risen, by degrees, to the rank of General, which he obtained previous to the taking of Seringapatam, where he greatly increased his already large fortune: during the last ten years, he had seldom suffered a fleet to sail for England, without sending a letter to the late Marquis of Endermay, who had fitted him out, at no small expence, for his Indian expedition, and which he still recollected with gratitude; frequently sending him presents of the produce of the East, and always appearing extremely interested in his welfare, and in that of his only grandson, though he had never seen him, having left England when Lady Zara Montrose was in her tenth year: still the Marquis seldom mentioned his name, and hardly ever to our hero, who was at first rather at a loss to comprehend the meaning of the letter which

which had thus unexpectedly fallen into his hands, since it appeared that some kind of proposals had been made respecting himself, of which he had never had a hint, though it seemed as if a conditional answer had been returned by the Marquis, as the General wrote—" I am no more inclined to bias the inclinations of my daughter, than you are to interfere with those of your grandson, though I hope he will not have disposed of his heart before my return to England, as I think my daughter, though born in India, will strike him as being one of the finest girls he has ever seen. Her mother was, you know, an Englishwoman, and her education had been strictly attended to, or she would not have suited me. I named my girl after your's, and I may be partial;—but I flatter myself she is even more accomplished than the late Mrs. Umfreville was, as we have very good masters here, and she studied under her parent's eyes; therefore I do hope that the first wish

wish of my heart will yet be gratified," which was, our hero presumed, to see his daughter united to the heir of the Endermay family: therefore, sincerely did he wish that this duplicate letter had shared the fate of its predecessor, which had been thrown overboard, in consequence of the packet having been attacked by a French ship of war, from which she had, with difficulty, made her escape; since the General must know it had fallen into his hands, and he understood that he meant to sail for England with the next fleet; and as this letter had been longer than usual upon its passage, he thought it very probable that the writer might, ere now, be very near England, as he expressed a hope that he should find a few lines waiting his arrival at Falmouth, where he proposed to land, and from whence he would proceed, as speedily as possible, to Montrose Castle, except his kind brother-in-law chose to give him the meeting in London, where he had ordered his agent to secure him a ready-

furnished

furnished house, which must content him till he could look round him, though he feared that he was not long for this world. His native air might brace his shattered frame and nerves; but he feared he should never be able to endure the transition from extreme heat to extreme cold, as, in his opinion, there was eight months winter in England, and four months of barely temperate weather: but as his Indian medical attendants were always recommending native air, he had resolved to return home, at every risk, and hoped he should find the person he addressed in as good health as he was the reverse.

Having re-read this very unexpected missive, our hero put it into Dr. Campbell's hands, saying—"You never told me, Doctor, that my grandfather had any matrimonial views for me; yet from this letter, it should seem he had; it was intended for him, and is from General Umfreville."

The Doctor, without replying, looked over the letter, saying, after he had glanced his

his eyes over it—" The General does mean to die at home, it should seem. Had he been less anxious to increase his already large fortune, he would have returned to England ten years ago, which might have preserved the life of the late Mrs. Umfreville, who was deserving of a better lot than fell to her share. I certainly did know that the General was extremely anxious to unite the families of Endermay and of Umfreville a second time; but as your grandfather had resolved never to mention what he thought rather a presumptuous wish to you, of course I never did.

" You were abroad when the nabob first opened his mind to the late Marquis, who, I believe, wrote him in return, that as you were more than of age, he should never even propose any particular lady to you, as he was well convinced, from the general tenor of your conduct and character, that he should approve of your choice, whenever you made one; but if your heart was disengaged, when you saw Miss Umfreville,

ville, she might very probably secure the prize; in which case, he certainly should not object to the alliance. These were all the hopes he gave him; and I dare say his Lordship thought no more about the matter.

"The General seems, however, resolved to bring about so desirable a match, if possible. I dare say his daughter is very handsome. He was a very fine-looking fellow when he left England, and married a very beautiful woman, I have been assured; therefore, Miss Umfreville may deserve all the praises he bestows upon her. He will be greatly shocked, when he learns his brother-in-law is no more."

"I fear he will.—I am glad, however, my grandfather had not, like him, set his mind upon my marrying his daughter, since I do not think that she will suit my taste, as I shall require more than mere beauty and accomplishments in a wife; a very good temper, for instance, a competent share of good sense, and a sufficient understanding,

to

to render her an agreeable companion, when we are *tête-à-tête*, as I do not wish to be a fashionable husband, since, like Lord Derwent, I shall marry, to secure myself a comfortable home."

"Then I hope you will be more successful than the old gentleman has been," replied the Doctor, in the same gay tone;—"but you certainly must see Miss Umfreville."

"Undoubtedly—Indeed I mean to pay her father, as my grandmother's brother, every mark of respect. Did we know when the East India fleet is expected, I dare say you, Doctor, would be so obliging as to give the General the meeting at Falmouth, since you and him were formerly acquainted; and you could soften and prepare him for the melancholy intelligence of my grandfather's death, much better than were I to address him in writing;—and, in his state of health, the demise of so old a friend cannot be broke too cautiously."

"You

"You are very right, my dear pupil;—and I am very ready to undertake the journey. As he may not immediately recollect such an insignificant being as myself, you must favour me with a few lines of introduction to him; though that, upon reflection, will be telling him at once that his brother-in-law is no more; so I must e'en introduce myself as an ambassador from the Marquis of Endermay, and, by degrees, inform him, that, should his daughter appear as amiable in your eyes as she does in his, that she will be a Marchioness immediately."

"As I am well convinced that you will act with your accustomed prudence, Doctor, I shall give you a *carte blanche*. But suppose you drive to the India House this morning, and enquire when the fleet is expected, or shall I?"

"There is no need, as I have an intimate friend who is an India Director, whom I ought to have called upon ere this. I will do so this evening, and, from him, I shall learn

learn all we wish to know; and should I be detained at Falmouth, I will finish Juliano's eventful tale, during my stay there."

"Do so, my dear Doctor, since, though he assures me he is very comfortable, and seems very happy, I shall not feel completely so, till his birth is ascertained; but I wish, meanwhile, as we are alone, that you would give me a short abstract of General Umfreville's family history, since I merely knew, before his letter came to hand, that I had such a relation, who had gone to India to retrieve his fortune: as I never heard my grandfather mention his wife, of course I did not know he had any children; nor did I presume he ever intended to return: so, in the first place, how old is he?"

"He must be upwards of sixty, I should suppose, about his grand climacteric. He was several years younger than his sister, and he was upwards of thirty when he went to India, resolved to return a nabob, or to lose

lose his life in attempting to retrieve his fortune; therefore, as he rose very rapidly, and has been upon various military embassies to many of the native Princes, which is a very speedy method of making money, I have been told, and was, besides, a General at the taking of Seringapatam, I dare say he has honourably realized an immense fortune, which will, I presume, center in the young lady he wishes you to marry, whose mother, a Scotswoman by birth, went out to India, to a distant relation, in consequence of her father's failure, who was a merchant of some eminence, and who had given her a very superior education; and as she was extremely handsome, her friends, for her father did not long survive his misfortune, sent her to better her fortune in the Eastern market.

"The General had been about ten years in India when she arrived; and as he was looking out for a wife, he soon declared himself her lover, and she became Mrs. Umfreville. They had several other children,

children, but the eldest daughter is now the only surviver, who was named after your mother, though she was no more when she was born; but the General is extremely partial to the family of Endermay; therefore his daughter was christened Zara, and his eldest son Montrose; and I think he had a Malcolm. Be that as it may, as he was resolved not to return home till he could vie with his brother-in-law in point of expenditure, he did not chuse either his wife or children should precede him to England, though probably his sons might have been spared to him, had he sent them hither; and I dare say his wife would still have been living, had he suffered her to return when she was first attacked with the nervous complaint, which terminated her existence about three years ago, and which, I am fearful, was brought on by fretting, under the galling yoke which he imposed upon her, as I have heard a gentleman, who knew him in India, declare, that Mrs. Umfreville trembled before him, and, from my previous

previous knowledge of him, I dare say he spoke the truth.

" She was, however, spared, till her daughter's education was nearly completed, he wrote your grandfather; and the governess who assisted in forming Miss Umfreville's mind has since supplied her place; and I think I may venture to say, the young lady's temper has not been spoiled by indulgence; whether it may not have been soured by too great severity, I shall not take upon me to decide, till I have seen her. But to return to the General.—He has long since cleared his Scots estate from the heavy mortgages he had incumbered it with; and as it is now extremely well let, I dare say it brings him in a large income. There is a very good house upon it; but I was never there, and I cannot suppose he will spend much of his time there, should he be in tolerable health when he arrives, as it is not very pleasantly situated, and by no means in a good or a populous neighbourhood: but he

he will enter into every detail, when you require to see his rent-roll; and I have told you all I know, and have ever heard, respecting his family."

"You have greatly obliged me, Doctor; and I will now take a ride for an hour, as I shall devote my evening to literature and Juliano, while you visit your old friend;" and thus, for the present, the Doctor and our hero parted.

CHAP. VIII.

The following morning, when they met at breakfast, the Doctor told our hero that the India fleet was expected in a week or ten days at farthest, and it was possible it

might come in much sooner; therefore, for fear the General should reach Falmouth before the Doctor, if he delayed his journey, he proposed setting off the following morning, since he could but wait his arrival, should he, as seemed probable, arrive there first.

The Marquis approved of his intention; adding—"That he should make him the bearer of a letter to the General, which he might give him, when he had prepared him to receive it."

"You do not mean, I presume, to enter into any conditional engagements respecting the fair Zara?" gaily asked the Doctor.

"I shall submit my letter to your inspection. As I shall not even touch upon the duplicate letter, you must inform him how we learned that he was expected in England; and I am convinced that you will answer all his questions respecting me with your accustomed discretion, and I shall pay my respects to him as soon as he arrives in London; so I shall leave you to prepare for

for your journey, as I am going into Portland-place," where he found the whole family at home, Lord Dunluce lamenting not having yet seen his *dear grandmama.*

"She will of course not appear in public till after she has been presented," said Lady Algernon, "which she is to be next Thursday. I shall not go to court. Shall you, Marquis?"

"I am sure I would, in my cousin's place," cried Lord Dunluce, "just to remind the circle of my relationship to the bride."

"I am not so maliciously disposed, Dunluce; but you will see her on that day, as you dine in St. James's-square, I suppose."

"I do; but I had much rather see her at St. James's."

By way of changing the conversation, our hero mentioned having received a letter intended for his late grandfather, from General Umfreville; but entered into no details, merely observing, that Dr. Campbell had kindly resolved to

give the nabob the meeting, to prevent his being abruptly informed of the death of the late Lord Endermay.

"Both you and the Doctor seem resolved to act with your usual consideration," replied the Earl.—"I have heard of General Umfreville; but he left England before I made my appearance upon the stage of fashion; therefore I never saw him, though I have heard him mentioned as having led the ton in his time; and if I mistake not, he was in habits of intimacy with my father."

Probably the Earl would have pursued the subject, if Lord Dunluce had not exclaimed—"I had like to have forgotten the circumstance, Marquis; but who do you think I met at the opera last night?—the pretty girl I was so near shooting at Chedworth, and her cousin, the rector's daughter. They enquired after you; and I told them I was convinced that you would greatly regret not having accompanied me; in short, did the honours for you so handsomely,

somely, that if you are inclined to visit them in Bedford-square, where Mr. Melbourne resides, I am convinced they will be very glad to see you."

"I feel myself infinitely obliged to you," replied the laughing Marquis; "but I can have no pretence for intruding upon the fair friends, except Dr. Murray is in town. Did you enquire?"

"I did; but he did not chuse to leave his flock exposed to the wiles of Padre Benedetto, I suppose, as he and Mrs. Murray remain at Chedworth, and Miss Murray returns thither in another fortnight."

"Why you seem to have had a very long conversation with these ladies," remarked the Countess.

"My dear mama, remember how near I was killing one of them, and then think whether I did not owe her a little public notice; it may give the fashionable lassie consequence; and I assure you she looked like one of us. Miss Murray continues stiff and formal, else the party they were

with were very genteel; and I understand Charlotte Melbourne is considered as an heiress, and has thirty thousand pounds independant of her father."

The Earl paid but little attention to what his son said; but our hero, who soon took his leave, thought it not improbable that this unexpected meeting had roused his flighty cousin's long dormant passion for the banker's daughter. Not feeling authorised, however, to put the question to him, he merely resolved to avoid being his confident, and to be distantly polite to the young ladies, should he meet them in public, since, though he had seen much to admire in Miss Murray, he had not seen enough to induce him to transplant her into the world of fashion.

The following morning the Doctor set off for Falmouth, and our hero paid a visit to Juliano, who, by his express desire, frequently breakfasted with him in Arlington-street; and had not prudence restrained him, he would, long since, have insisted upon

upon his becoming his inmate, feeling more and more convinced, every time they met, that they were really brothers. Indeed there was, at times, a great resemblance between them, though the one was a fair, the other a dark man. They were, however, nearly of a height, and both seemed to have inherited the symmetry of form which had so conspicuously distinguished the late Lord William Albany.

Juliano, though much stouter than when he left the Priory, was not of so athletic a make as the young Highlander, for whom his attachment was already more than fraternal; and he looked forward, with joyful expectation, to becoming his inmate at Montrose Castle; and would readily, as he frequently said, agree to leave Father Benedetto to the reproaches of his own conscience, if, by so doing, he could ensure a continuance of his benefactor's regard, who had succeeded in convincing him that he could have nothing farther to fear from the old hypocrite, even admitting they

were obliged to attack him in law. By the Marquis's express desire, he took daily lessons of riding, from a very celebrated master, as he wished him to appear with eclat, should he, as he fully hoped and expected, be proved to be an Albany.

Lord Algernon was no less kindly interested in his concerns; and it was resolved to submit his case to the crown lawyers, the moment the Doctor returned to town, and then to have the prior, admitting they could find him, secured or not, as they advised. Our hero was therefore grieved to receive a letter from his worthy tutor, which informed him that he feared he should be detained at least a week at Falmouth, as the fleet was not yet even in sight; though, from the accounts of some fast-sailing vessels, which were just come in, and who had spoke them, it was supposed they would be off the Lizard in a few days, except the wind changed, and prevented them from entering the Channel; and, with this account, the Marquis was obliged to content himself,

himself, though he became extremely impatient for the Doctor's return.

On the Saturday after his departure, the Earl received a letter from Lady Winifred, for whom he had taken a house in Welbeck-street, which announced her intention of being in town the ensuing week, requesting that every thing might be prepared for her reception ; and promising to write again, to let his Lordship know when he might expect her.

Sincerely did our hero wish she had remained in the country till Juliano's claims had been discussed ; but as that might be a work of time, as the Earl observed, he was rather pleased that Belthorpe would probably be in town when they commenced their attack upon the monk, who might be the more puzzled how to evade their enquiries ; declaring that he should not besorry, Lord Derwent would, by this means, participate in the mortification they had both of them experienced, when introduced to Algernon Albany.

The following Thursday, as had been previously settled, the Marchioness of Derwent, whose person had been decorated by the first people in the line, made her first appearance at court; and, thanks to the instructions of her Lord, and to those of Lady Algernon, who had, upon second thoughts, and at the old Marquis's earnest request, agreed to accompany her to court, she acquitted herself better than might have been expected; and certainly did not appear deficient, in point of assurance, nor disconcerted at attracting general notice.

Our hero had not accompanied his uncle, well convinced that his grandfather would feel himself more comfortable in his absence. The old Peer was, nevertheless, teazed with repeated enquiries respecting his elegant grandson, because it was never more obvious that he was ashamed of his title of grandpapa; he had therefore taken care to invite none but his intimate friends to dine with him upon this memorable occasion, as two of his grandchildren were to be

be of the party; and our hero was completing his toilette, between six and seven, when, to his infinite astonishment, not having expected to have seen him before Saturday at soonest, as Lady Winifred had not written again to Lord Algernon, who should burst into his dressing-room, with the servant, who had come forward to announce him, but Algernon Albany, *in propria persona*, exclaiming, as he advanced—"Here I am, brother, the Lord be praised!—safe and sound, as you perceive, and mightily pleased with what I have seen of London. Belthorpe put me into a coach, and bid the man drive me here, which he did, as pat as if he had been here a hundred times before. Why you look quite the thing! I hope you are not going out."

Malcolm could not refuse his proffered hand, though he certainly did not participate in his satisfaction, but said, in reply to his question—"I am very sorry it so happened, but I am engaged to dine at Der-

went House, therefore cannot think of sending an excuse, great as will be my loss, since I shall be deprived of your company. But how is Lady William and my sister?—Lady Winifred is in town, I presume?"

"Not she, indeed, nor will she be before to-morrow at dinner. She sent me and Belthorpe forward, to have every thing put in apple-pie order against she arrived. There is to be fires made in every room of the house, and the beds are to be warmed at least a dozen times between this and to-morrow, and are to be slept in to-night: but you do not seem in good spirits; ant you well?"

"Never better, I give you my honour.—I was merely attentive, not grave. You left Mr. Langhton and Lady William well, I hope?"

"They made no complaints; so I suppose so: but I hoped to have occasioned you an agreeable surprise, and I am fearful you thought I made too free."

"By no means," cried our hero, angry

to find that his countenance was so true an index of his heart, and resolved not to give the poor fellow, who was certainly not to blame, any reason to doubt his friendship or his hospitality; repeating that he was very sorry it so happened he was under the necessity of leaving home almost immediately. "But where is Mr. Belthorpe?" he asked.

"Oh, I left him in possession of our apartments, though I believe I did not write you word that a lodging had been engaged for us, at a friend of the Padre's, or rather of his *factotum*, Francisco's, in Frith-street, Soho; and there I left him, as I was all impatience to see you; so as soon as I had appeased my hunger, I posted hither; and now here you are going out. I wish I had let you know when you might have expected me:—but do tell me how the old boy and his new-married lady go on? Why they say she is not more than seventeen, and he is upwards of seventy!—Lord, if you had but seen grandfather Langhton's

Langhton's face, when mother read him your letter, in which you mentioned the marriage, you would never have forgotten him; he thought you was making fun of us at first, and I got myself affronted for saying my grandfather Derwent had a colt's tooth in his head yet. The Padre took my part, else I wish we had not quarrelled, for the old fellow is grown monstrous touchy of late. The Father, however, always brought me off with flying colours; yet sometimes he was as ready to snap my nose off as ever the old gentleman appeared to be, particularly if I pulled a face, and wondered what could have become of his poor nephew. Then he would bounce like a parched pea, and revile me for reminding him of his misfortunes; but he deserved no other, he said, and I was an ungrateful wretch, and devoid of common feeling; for no news has transpired respecting Mad Tom, so of course he is dead; and if his carcase was ever found, why no one knew where he belonged;

longed; so I suppose they dug a hole, and popped him in. Belthorpe knows the old man only wishes that could be ascertained; so to spite him, I was always hoping we should hear of his having fallen into good hands, till I used to work the old fellow to an oil, who will leave his savings to some charity, when he dies, I should not wonder, except Belthorpe cants him out of a trifle. But, would you believe it, mother has fretted about Tom Fool almost as much as the Padre, and so has grandfather, who sighs and groans, and turns up his eyes like a duck in thunder; then hopes he shall be forgiven, if he should have come to an untimely end; and were it known that he was dead, I dare say there would be a mass said daily for the repose of his soul, when, as I say, a madman cannot suffer like a person in their senses; but there they will have it I have no feeling; so I am glad I have turned my back on them all; though I love my mother, for she has been always very kind to me; and as for Rose, I do believe,

lieve, when it came to the point, she had as leave have staid behind, for she took on monstrously. Grandfather cried too for company, and said she was a good girl, and he had no fear of her being led astray in this wicked place; and what surprised me more than any thing, Lady Winifred was pleased to see she regretted leaving the Priory, when, Lord! I could have danced and sung for very joy."

"Very possibly; but did you travel with Lady Winifred?" asked our hero, who devoutly hoped his vulgar unfeeling visitor might be the person he so kindly styled Mad Tom.

"No, her Ladyship did not require any guard but her servants, she said; so we came up in post-chaises; and, as I told you before, as soon as I had swallowed my dinner, I drove to see you. Are we in a fashionable part of the town, pray? I did not see many carriages about, but the houses seem tolerably good, though it was dusk when we arrived."

"You

"You are in a very respectable situation, I make no doubt; and lodgings are not always to be met with in the most fashionable streets, and are besides exorbitantly dear, which might have been an objection to Mr. Langhton. You have also the advantage of being near a Catholic chapel."

"Which I shall not often trouble, except on Sundays; we have praying enough at home."

"That is a point I shall leave you to settle with Belthorpe; but shall I order tea for you, since you have dined, and I must be going? Will you and your tutor breakfast with me to-morrow morning?"

"With all my heart; I will be sworn B. has no engagement; so what is your hour?"

"Ten in general; but sometimes I make it near eleven, if I sit up late."

"I will rouse you by ten to-morrow, however, as I shall be charming and snappish by that time, if the London air does not

not take away my appetite: but I had rather return home to tea, as I told B. I should, if you were from home; my hack is in waiting."

"Let my servants discharge it, as you can set me down, and then my chariot can take you home."

"What a bright thought, brother! for who knows but I may be taken for my Lord Marquis, after I have set you down? But here—faith, I had like to have forgot half my errand—here is a letter from my mother, and I have a message as long as my arm, from grandfather and the Padre; but you have no time to listen to their palaver now. Rose desired also to be remembered to you."

The Marquis's carriage being, however, in waiting, as it was upon the stroke of seven, he led the way to it, and, in a very few minutes, they drove up to Derwent House.

"Well, it was hardly worth while to have stepped into a carriage for such a bit of a way,"

way," said the unpolished rustic, while the servants were opening the door of the chariot.—" I only wish I was smart enough to go in with you, for I do long to see my beautiful grandmama."

" I wish I dared take you in my hand," was our hero's reply, bidding him farewell, and telling his servants where to drive.

Owing to this unexpected visitor, he was the last guest who arrived in St. James's-square, therefore had no opportunity of telling his uncle how *agreeably* he had been surprised about half an hour before. Having paid his devoirs to the bride and bridegroom, who had certainly both taken uncommon pains to look to advantage, and who had, in many respects, succeeded, he was approaching Lady Algernon, when he was intercepted by Lord Dunluce, who, drawing him on one side, said, in an audible whisper—" I have positively broken the tenth commandment, since I have seen my grandmother—d-v-l--h lucky her picture did not fall in my way before I saw the original,

original, else I should have pined myself to death, the victim of a hopeless passion, for she is positively handsomer than Charlotte Melbourne; and I dare say she will be ten times more cried up: the old beau will soon be jealous; for I hear she was very much admired at St. James's, and that she enquired why Lord Endermay was not in the circle; so she is not ashamed of the relationship, if her *caro sposo* is: but I hope you will not be so wicked as to forget the respect so much her due; but you have no taste for quizzing, else how you might *worriate* the old gentleman! But I have not done with you yet. Now do not look grave; I must rattle; and surely, if *grandpapa* wants a plaything in his old age, I may be allowed to gingle the bells of my fool's-cap now and then. But to be serious—just as we were leaving Portland-place, the Earl and Countess having returned home from St. James's, to alter their dress, who should be shewn in but Parson Belthorpe, with a letter from Lady Winifred,

Winifred, who is fearful she shall catch her death of cold in this chilly atmosphere, and others from the Priory; he was obliged to shorten his visit, as it was getting late, so he could not enter into many details.—I merely understood that he was never to lose sight of his pupil; but I would venture any bet, that I will contrive his pupil shall lose sight of him; and I am much mistaken if Algernon, bigot as he is, does not come into my plan. Have you seen him? for I think the tutor said he was gone into Arlington-street."

"He came in just as I was leaving home, which made me so late; but I hope, my dear Dunluce, you will not lead him into any errors."

"Errors! why you mistake your character, Marquis; you are not my grandfather. Now do cast your eyes in that glass, and that will tell you that you are a fine young fellow of four-and-twenty, and a soldier—not a priest; so leave preaching to those who make a trade of it; and recollect

collect that Algernon has come to London to see a little of life, therefore it would be shameful in us to suffer him to return as ignorant as he came. I could not answer it to my conscience; you may do as you please."

"But, my dear mad-brained cousin, only suffer me to intreat you will not give him too great a relish for dissipation, as you may, with the best intentions in the world, be doing him a serious injury; and you will particularly oblige me, if you suffer him to follow the bent of his own inclinations, and the advice of his Mentor; since, were he to fall under the serious displeasure of his grandfather Langhton, there is no knowing what might be the consequence."

"Why that is very true; so give me your hand, and I give you my word I will only take upon me to reform his wardrobe; for I believe he takes more after *Lord Ogleby*, alias Lord Derwent, who would not enjoy being called grandpapa, than after that

that pious old soul, Mr. Langhton; and, to tell you the real truth—excuse my frankness—I am fearful that, with the strange confined education he has received, and his obvious deficiencies in point of *petites mœurs*, in addition to his heavy, not to say awkward figure, and to the queer superstitious notions he has imbibed from the Padre, that he will never do credit to the name of Albany."

"Then do not endeavour to render him ridiculous," was the reply; "nor to render his deficiences more glaring;" and as our hero was still less prepossessed in the rustic's favour, he sincerely hoped that it would soon be proved he had no right to the name of Albany, which he might disgrace, but upon which he would certainly never confer any additional lustre; still, had he not felt assured that he was not even related to him, he would have endeavoured to have given a little polish to his manners, and to have corrected some of his vulgarisms; but, as matters stood, he did

did not feel inclined to commence Mentor.

A summons to dinner broke in upon his reflections; and it may be supposed that the repast was suitable to the occasion. The Marquis of Derwent was in excellent spirits, and did the honours of his house with the politeness of the old Court; and considering it was her first appearance in high life, the Marchioness acquitted herself extremely well; and every one present were inclined to make every allowance for her that her *caro sposo* could have desired, whose looks she certainly consulted more than once; and, upon an imperceptible sign of his, she retired with the ladies; and, in less than half an hour, some of the gentlemen followed their example, among whom were our hero and Lord Algernon, who thus contrived to have a few minutes conversation, when they agreed merely to invite the rustic and his tutor to join their family parties, Mr. Langhton having indeed sent a very polite message to the Earl, expressive of a wish that he might not,

not, at least at present, be introduced at court, nor, as little as could be avoided, into fashionable life, as he sent him to London to be introduced to every branch of his father's family, but not to mix with the gay world; and they were resolved to conform very strictly to his wishes, and to leave him totally to the controul of Belthorpe, who had doubtless received private instructions to keep him out of temptation.

Having thus settled their future mode of conduct towards the innocent usurper, for whom they were both resolved to provide, in case their most sanguine hopes were realized, they mixed in the general conversation, as all the ladies, not even excepting the bride, were extremely anxious to attract the attention of the Scots Marquis, a title the company chose to distinguish our hero by, not to shock the ears of the founder of the feast, by alluding to their relationship. The bride was therefore the only person who mentioned the word grandson, by which name she more

than once addressed our hero, in a very familiar tone; but he shrunk from her advances, as the sly expression, which her eyes often assumed, had made a very disagreeable impression upon him, and led him to fear that she would soon give more encouragement than her ancient husband would approve of, to the many men of fashion who would notice her, on purpose to perplex the old gentleman. But should she once rouse his jealousy, he was well convinced that she would be strictly immured in the country, under the care of some watchful duenna, who would effectually prevent her going astray. The day went off, however, better than many of the party expected; and, at a late hour, the company separated, apparently extremely well pleased with their entertainment.

CHAP.

CHAP. IX.

Though our hero had retired at a late hour, he rose very early, and bent his course towards Wells-street, as he thought it but prudent to inform Juliano, that Belthorpe and Algernon were come to town, as he did not wish him to stumble upon either of them in Arlington-street, which he might do, as he knew the latter would never scruple, upon the strength of their relationship, to break in upon his privacy at any hour; and though he had no reason to suppose that either of them had ever seen him, still, as there was a possibility Bel-

thorpe might have done so, as he was both artful and sly, and perhaps more in the monk's secrets than even his pupil might be aware of, he resolved to be very much upon his guard.

Juliano was just returned from his morning's walk, and extremely happy to see his beloved friend, who, while taking a cup of coffee with him, told him what had induced him to pay him such an early visit; relating what Algernon had said respecting him, and reading him part of Lady William's letter, which alluded to him in terms that did honour both to her heart and head.

"I could almost have fancied that lady was your mother, Marquis, she seems to possess such a feeling heart, and so much genuine sensibility."

Our hero spoke of her as she deserved, and then regretted that his dear Juliano would, for the present, be prevented from visiting him in Arlington-street; but even his

his name might lead to suspicions, admitting they were unacquainted with his person.

"No doubt it would, my kind friend; and as Mr. Belthorpe is doubtless in some of the Padre's secrets, he may be commissioned to ascertain what has become of *Mad Tom*, which, I think, he would easily divine, were he to discover that you had a foreigner of my age under your protection. At all events, he would certainly write his conjectures to the Priory, which might overthrow all your kind plans in my favour."

"Your remarks are very just, my dear fellow; I only wish both tutor and pupil had remained in Lancashire, at least for another month; but though they will certainly often break in upon my time, and I must frequently visit Lady Winifred, you may depend upon seeing me every other day. Dr. Campbell will not be long absent; and when he returns, we mean to put matters in train, to bring that villainous old friar to a speedy confession, since I

look forward with impatience to your emerging from your solitude."

"I shall certainly be more satisfied, when I know who I am," was the rejoinder; "else I have not a wish ungratified, now I can boast of such a friend."

A tear of delight glittered in his eye, while considering his benefactor, who very reluctantly bid him farewell, and hastened home to receive Belthorpe and his uncouth pupil. They were not arrived; he therefore caught up the morning paper, and read a pompous panegyric upon his *grandmama*, which he easily guessed had been inserted at the expence of the bridegroom, Lord Algernon having foreseen that he would be her puffer upon this occasion.—He next read, that the India fleet were in the Channel, and that some of the passengers had landed at Falmouth; he therefore hoped he should soon see or hear from the Doctor, as he did not suppose the General would make any stay in Cornwall, if he was well enough to travel.

While

While reflecting upon these relations, and the duplicate letter which had fallen into his hands, Belthorpe and Algernon were announced, and shewn into the breakfast-parlour, which commanded a delightful view of the Green Park.

"How are you, brother?" cried the latter, the moment he was within the room.—"I am glad to find you up, as B. wanted me to have stopped till eleven, before we broke in upon you; but I swore we could but wait your rising here, and I was in the right, it should seem."

The Marquis endeavoured to make a suitable reply to this polite address; and certainly gave them both a very polite reception; while Belthorpe endeavoured, by repeated bows and compliments, to make up for his pupil's deficiences; even telling the young gentleman that he made infinitely too free with their noble host, upon the strength of their relationship.

"We are old friends, you know, Mr. Belthorpe," resumed our hero.—"Besides,

ceremony is now banished the higher circles. Whether we have not fallen into the contrary extreme, I shall not take upon me to say; only I must hint to you, my dear Algernon, that the Marquis of Derwent is not a convert to the present fashion, at least he always expects to be treated with infinite respect by me; of course you must be very much upon your guard in his presence; and do not hurt his feelings, by addressing him as your grandfather."

"Oh, I will be all politeness to him, I give you my honour. When will you introduce me to him?"

"When he desires me to do so. You would not wish to force him to acknowledge the relationship; he knows you were expected in town, though not that you are arrived."

"What! did not you tell him yesterday that you had seen me?"

"I had no opportunity; it was a ceremonious party, and of course I did not withdraw his attention from his guests, to com-

communicate what could not greatly interest him; but I make no doubt of his expressing a wish to see you, as soon as he hears you are in town—so now tell me how you like London?"

"Why I think it a very noisy dirty place, and the watchmen are worse than the bell at the Priory; for they woke me ever so many times, bawling out something that I could not understand. Now you are as quiet and as pleasant as if you were in the country; here is something like a prospect—that nice park, and crowd of folks parading up and down; I should enjoy myself here."

"I did wish you to have been my guest; but you know Mr. Langhton chose you should go into lodgings, and I gave up to his better judgment; but I am afraid, from what you say, you are not very comfortably situated."

"I have got a very good bed, that I must acknowledge, though it is a bookcase in the day, as it stands in our dining-

room; I preferred it to the back-room, as there you can only see the back of some houses, as black as the chimney, and so near the window, I wonder people are not stifled for want of air. I dare say Francisco supposed it was a very elegant lodging; and, to be sure, the house stinks of perfume. The landlord is an Italian and a Catholic."

Belthorpe entered into various other details, agreeing that the people of the house were not very clean, nor were the apartments well furnished.

"Then surely Mr. Langhton will not object to your changing your quarters," resumed the Marquis; "as I dare say you may be much better lodged for the same money, in a more airy situation, and in an English family, which will, of itself, be a great recommendation."

"Mr. Langhton left it wholly at my option, my Lord, either to remain where we are, or to seek another abode, as he knew he might depend upon my discretion; and I had

I had foreseen many of the inconveniences to which we have been subjected, but did not like, in the first instance, to set my face against Father Benedetto's proposal, that we should lodge with this perfumer."

"Because he is some relation of his *factotum's*," cried his pupil; "but I will not be poisoned with dirt, and stifled for want of air, to humour either the Padre or his man; and I am sure my brother would never pay us a second visit in such a dog-hole of a place."

"I have a friend in Westminster," resumed the tutor, "where I think, for the same money, we might be much better accommodated. The house is large and airy, at no great distance from the Bridge, and not more than two minutes walk from the Park."

The Marquis advised their removing thither immediately, and Belthorpe promised to wait upon his friend to settle matters, when, having finished breakfast, to which Algernon had done ample honour, the

Marquis asked him to accompany him into Portland-place, as he ought not to delay paying his respects to Lord and Lady Algernon.

"Certainly not," said the complaisant tutor; "and as I am convinced Mr. Albany can come to no harm, while in your Lordship's company, I will seize the opportunity to wait upon my friend."

Our hero made no objection; and as the morning was fine, he set out on foot with his uninformed companion, of whom he was completely ashamed, and who had so many questions to ask, and made such frequent stops, that the Marquis made a mental vow never to walk London streets with him again. Fortunately they met no one of his acquaintance, and at last they reached Portland-place.

The Earl and Countess welcomed the stranger with infinite kindness, and listened very patiently to his account of his journey, complaints of his lodgings, and final resolution to move. Lord Dunluce,

who

who had purposely staid at home to see the unlicked cub, as he styled Algernon, expressed a wish to visit his landlord's shop, previous to his removal, as he understood the Italians were excellent judges of perfumes, &c.

"Then will you go home with me now?" asked the rustic.—"You can take me to the street, I suppose; and I will be bound to take you to the right house, when we come in sight of it."

Lord Dunluce readily offered to become his pilot, having expressed a wish to examine the perfumer's stock in trade, by way of getting his country cousin to himself; and as no one objected to their plan, they soon departed together.—Lady Winifred had been long engaged to dine in Portland-place on the day of her arrival in town, and of course all her party, in which Algernon and his tutor were included;—the Earl therefore politely reminded him, as he was leaving the room, that they should dine at five, and should expect to

see him and Mr. Belthorpe at that hour.—He promised to be punctual, having before understood that he was thus engaged.

As soon as he was gone—"Now what say you, Marquis," said the Earl, "to our riding to Highgate, where I think it very probable we shall meet aunt Win, and she will be highly flattered by such a mark of our attention?"

"I will attend you with pleasure, my dear Sir."

"And so will I," cried the Countess, "if you will drive me in the barouche, my Lord. The day is extremely mild, and the Marquis shall be my beau. Those who do not know that we are related, will give me credit for my choice. Should I find it cold, I can return with the old lady, as I dare say Rosalie will not be sorry to change places with me. It would be high treason to propose such a thing to Miss Albany *par preference*."

The Earl did not object to this arrangement, and between one and two they set out;

out; and having reached Highgate, were talking of proceeding to Finchley, when they saw, upon reaching the brow of the hill, her travelling-coach advancing, at a pretty smart pace, which induced the Earl to turn about, and wait her arrival, before one of the inns, where he gave his horses a little water, and when near enough, hailed her postillions, who instantly drew up close to the barouche.

Never had Lady Winifred been more flattered. Having assured her kind relatives that she was in very good health, and by no means fatigued, she enquired whether they had seen Mr. Albany and his tutor?—Being answered in the affirmative, Lady Algernon proceeded to inform her that she had taken upon herself to see the house in Albemarle-street well aired, and made no doubt of her finding every thing very comfortable, her housekeeper having paid it frequent visits.

During these compliments, Rosalie was shaking hands with her favourite brother,

and

and felt extremely happy when the Countess proposed changing places with her; which being soon effected, greatly to the satisfaction of all parties, they proceeded to town, the Earl taking the lead of the post-coach; and, as he presumed the brother and sister might have many things to talk over, he very seldom, after the first welcomes, broke in upon their *tête-à-tête;* and as our hero did not absolutely depend upon the intelligence he had obtained through the medium of Algernon, he enquired how the family did? adding—"I find no intelligence has transpired respecting the fugitive, whom our brother feelingly styles Mad Tom."

"My mother was extremely hurt at his doing so, as both she and my grandfather are still seriously uneasy about the poor fellow. The Padre seems also to fret very much, though he declares he must have died somewhere, or have left England:—still, in my opinion, he lives in constant dread of something transpiring respecting

him,

him, as he anxiously watches the arrival of letters, and seems in a fidget, whenever my grandfather or mother receive any: and I am convinced the former thinks he has imposed upon him respecting the poor prisoner, which he does not seem inclined to forgive; and this the Father deeply feels, and, I fancy, strongly resents, which makes my mother very uneasy; but of late he has spent a great deal of his time at Hilton, as you have heard, I suppose, how much Madame de La Tour stands in need of consolation."

"No, positively; what has befallen her?"

"Good Heavens! has not Algernon informed you that her daughter has eloped? and I know the Father thinks that his late prisoner is concerned in the business; but that appears to me very unlikely, except, indeed, as my mother says, Francisco was in the plot, and the young man was in his senses. Madame de La Tour has, however, very prudently avoided making any bustle

in

in the neighbourhood, and has given out that her daughter is gone to Amesbury Abbey."

"You have indeed surprised me, my dear girl, since neither Algernon nor Belthorpe, who both breakfasted with me, mentioned the circumstance."

"I can only suppose Algernon is so happy to find himself in London, that he has forgotten there is such a place as Langhton Priory."

The Marquis recollected that he had never asked after the fair *emigrée*, therefore thought it possible the circumstance might have escaped his brother's memory. The Earl, not having been attending to their discourse, participated in the Marquis's surprise, when informed that Mademoiselle de La Tour was missing; but their arrival in Portland-place prevented Rosalie from entering into any farther details.

Lady Winifred refused to alight, as she must make some alteration in her dress, she said, before dinner, and wished to walk over her

her house, and give various necessary orders to her suite. The Countess therefore took leave of her for the present; and Rosalie having resumed her seat in the coach, it drove away, but not before the Earl had told his aunt he should send his carriage for her at five o'clock. Our hero also hastened home to adorn; and while at his toilette, he told Donald that Pauline had eloped from her mother; and it was rather suspected that she was gone off with his favourite Juliano.

"That notion originated in the Father, I dare say, my Lord; for he seems to have a rare talent for invention. May I let the young gentleman know of what he is suspected, as I am going up to my brother's this afternoon, and he understands English as well as I do?"

The Marquis had proposed imparting the intelligence to his favourite the following morning, but could not refuse his faithful valet the pleasure of being before hand with him; and having completed his

toilette,

toilette, he drove into Portland-place, wishing to have a little conversation with his uncle before his other guests arrived.—He found him alone in the drawing-room, and he immediately informed him with whom the Father affected to suspect Paulina de La Tour was gone off.

"How truly absurd to broach such a suggestion, after having given out that Juliano was insane! Surely he will be caught in his own toils at last, and forced to acknowledge when and where he exchanged your brother, for the dolt that has been brought up as such. As for Pauline, she is probably gone off with some of the inferior officers who were quartered at Preston."

"Except she has preceded the dolt, as you term him, to London; for I once saw him salute her very cordially."

"Indeed! then I dare say you have guessed very right. Is Belthorpe in the secret, do you think?"

"That I cannot pretend to say.—He may

may be only the confident of his secret indulgences, in eating and drinking; but I think I shall soon discover whether the young lady is in the rustic's keeping, as I mean to ask him why he did not inform me that she had left Hilton."

"That will probably induce him to acknowledge the truth: but we must drop the subject, as here comes aunt Win;" who soon made her appearance, followed by her grand-nieces; and as she had found every thing in exact order in Welbeck-street, and the Countess immediately joined her, who declared she looked all the better for her journey, she became very good-humoured, and extremely chatty, acknowledging that they had travelled at too slow a rate, to admit of her being sensible of fatigue, when the entrance of Algernon and his tutor drew off the attention of the party, since, thanks to Lord Dunluce's dexterity, the former had assumed the external appearance of a man of fashion, having readily accompanied the young Peer to

his

his taylor's, who, being in the habit of furnishing minor bucks with cloaths by the year, generally had a variety by him of all sizes and colours. Algernon was therefore soon fitted with a suit, that would probably else have fallen to the share of some box-lobby lounger, it was cut with such a strict regard to the reigning fashion.

This done, they proceeded to his Lordship's hatter's, hosier's, and shoemaker's; and having given every necessary order, they proceeded into Frith-street, Algernon regretting that it was so expensive to be in the fashion, having made a terrible dip in the money Mr. Langhton and his mother had given him for his private expences.

Lord Dunluce laughed him, however, out of all his scruples, and even insisted upon his wearing powder.

"But should not he get into trouble about the tax?"

"Not at all; it was only entering his name at Somerset House; and surely, for so paltry a saving, he would never forego the

the many advantages resulting from the use of powder."

"But my brother did not wear it in the country."

"Agreed; nor does he always now; but you must not take him for your model; the Marquis of Endermay may do any thing—even go to a rout in boots—you are not so privileged a mortal; and you cannot shew your face in St. James's-square of an evening, out of powder."

This convincing argument induced Algernon to submit his head to the hands of his landlord, who, being one of the *friseurs* employed at the Opera-House, soon disencumbered him of the redundancy of hair which shaded his forehead, and curled, powdered, and perfumed him *en regle*.

Having waited while his head was arranged, which Algernon agreed was a great improvement to his looks, Lord Dunluce took his leave, as the polite Italian promised to assist the rustic in completing his toilette, which he had but just concluded,

when

when Belthorpe came home to sit down to his, and was not a little surprised to find his pupil admiring himself in a pier glass, and grasping an immense opera hat, Lord Dunluce having pointed out the absolute necessity of his making such a purchase.

The tutor could not say much, as he understood he had acted in conformity to Lord Dunluce's advice, who had accompanied him home; and he understood the Earl and Marquis had requested that young gentleman would accompany the rustic, to make the necessary purchases, to enable him to appear decently at their tables: of course Belthorpe dared not appear to condemn an alteration he presumed had their sanction; therefore merely told the beau, that he had engaged apartments at his friend's, with whom they were to board, and at whose house they should be extremely comfortably lodged; and having soon changed his dress, they set out in a hackney-coach for Portland-place.

Lord Dunluce, to his great mortification,

was

was not in the drawing-room when they made their *entrée*, therefore did not witness the astonishment of our hero, nor the surprise of Rosalie, in which all present participated.

"Upon my word, you are quite adorned for conquest," said Lady Winifred.

Algernon hastily explained to whom he was indebted for the transformation he had undergone.

The Earl drily observed—"That he had guessed as much," feeling, like our hero, very much displeased with his son for having rendered the poor youth completely ridiculous; but Lord Dunluce prudently kept aloof, to prevent them from venting their spleen upon him, highly enjoying the stiff erect posture which Algernon had assumed, with his fashionable dress.

The dinner was very gay; and soon after tea the Marquis of Derwent was announced; and though Lady Winifred had been extremely offended at his having so mismatched himself, in the first instance, she

was extremely gratified by this mark of politeness, as he declared that his present visit was to her, as he was impatient to enquire after her health, and to see his ward, whom he thought had grown since they last met—he could not add, was much improved.

The Earl took upon him to introduce his wards to him, as he styled Algernon and Rosalie. The old Marquis was polite, if not cordial, to them, but almost instantly observed, that Mr. Albany did not bear the slightest resemblance to his father's family, nor to his sister, "who is much more like you, Lord Endermay," he went on, "than her own brother."

"So I have been told by Mr. Langhton, my Lord," replied our hero, his thoughts reverting to his beloved Juliano, whom he felt he should be as proud of introducing to all his friends, as he felt ashamed of acknowledging his supposed relationship to the silly youth then present; and most devoutly did Lord Derwent wish he had remained in the country, since, as Lord Algernon

gernon had foreseen, he shrunk intuitively from the awkward being, while he felt a sort of instinctive attachment for Rosalie, whom he often addressed, as he could not help acknowledging that she might dispute the palm of beauty with his bride, and seemed to possess all those qualities he gave the world to understand were centered in Lady Derwent. Wishing, however, to conciliate his sister, he was extremely attentive to her; and as he could be a very agreeable companion, and was very anxious to be upon good terms with all his family, he never exerted himself more to please, asking Lady Winifred how her engagements stood?

"Not having been in town twelve hours, brother, I have neither paid nor received any visits yet."

"Then will you, as you certainly will not stand upon ceremony with me, do me and Lady Derwent the favour of dining with us to-morrow, quite *en famille?* as I shall merely request the present company would

give you the meeting in St. James's-square."

Lady Winifred wished to have been allowed a few days repose, but the Marquis over-ruled all her objections; and, as neither the Algernon family nor our hero had any particular engagement, they accepted his Lordship's invitation; and Algernon was delighted at the idea of seeing his beautiful *grandmama.*

The party, however, soon broke up, as Lady Winifred talked of retiring, which induced her brother to offer to set her and the young ladies down in Welbeck-street, as it would not be out of his way: between nine and ten, therefore, they departed; and our hero desired Belthorpe and his pupil to make use of his carriage, which they might send back for him; and no sooner were they gone, than the Earl took his son to task, for having rendered his cousin's want of grace and bad figure so very conspicuous.

The Countess spoke to the same effect:

he

he defended himself with infinite good-humour, and with such well-feigned contrition, that our hero joined very heartily in the laugh he created, particularly when taking off Algernon under his friseur's hands; though he feared that the more partial the poor fellow became to high life, dress, &c. the greater would be his mortification when he found his own level.

Lord Dunluce would not, however, allow that he had sinned against the golden rule, in this instance. Belthorpe might curb his pupil's passion for dress; he had merely wished to render him decent, defying either his father or our hero, to say that he had wilfully rendered him ridiculous, since the cloaths he wore were made for another person; and surely his shock of hair required new-modelling; and if he handled his opera-hat, as a bear would do a plumb-cake, that was not his fault.

Having thus made his peace with all those most inclined to condemn him, he succeeded so well in amusing them, that

the Marquis dismissed his carriage, and staid supper with his kind relatives, who wished him to fancy himself their second son.

The next morning he paid Juliano a short visit, in his way into Welbeck-street, and laughed with him over the fresh suspicion the Father had set afloat concerning him; Juliano declaring, that it struck him as very probable that this Pauline, whom of course he had never seen, had been sent upon a voyage of discovery by the Padre, possibly to Italy, if he suspected he had sought an asylum there.

The Marquis agreed it might be so, acknowledging he rather suspected that love for his brother had induced her to leave home; taking a kind leave of his *protegée*, and proceeding to Lady Winifred's, whom he wished to catch, before she went out a-shopping; and was but just in time, as her carriage was in waiting. He therefore merely paid her the compliments *d'usage*, rejoicing to see her look so well, before he made his parting bow, not wishing to

delay

delay their visits to milliners, dress-makers, &c.; and as he took Bond-street in his way home, he went into the first large jeweller's shop he saw, to purchase a set of pearls for Rosalie, to which he added a watch and chain, and some other fashionable trinkets, wishing to place her upon an equality with her cousin, in point of appearance; and having written an affectionate note to her, requesting her acceptance of the inclosed trifles, as he termed his noble gift, he sent the parcel into Welbeck-street; and having taken a ride of a couple of hours, he had just began to dress, when Algernon joined him, adorned in the same smart suit he had worn the day before, and dressed and powdered with equal care, telling him that he hoped he would allow him to accompany him into St. James's-square, as Belthorpe, fearful he should be deemed intrusive, as the Marquis of Derwent had not particularly invited him, was gone to dine with some friends of his

own, and had therefore set him down in Arlington-street, as he should not have chosen to have gone in alone at the Marquis of Derwent's, as he might very unintentionally, and for the want of knowing better, make a hole in his manners.

This the Marquis thought might very probably have happened; yet sincerely did he wish he had spared him the trouble of being his gentleman usher upon the occasion; but not chusing to tell him so, he asked him whether Pauline had not been extremely grieved, when he bade her adieu?

"Why, did not I tell you that she had run away before I left home?"

"Not you, indeed; though, to be very candid, I have heard as much, and rather suspected that you were accessary to her flight."

"Mercy upon me, brother! how could such an idea enter your head?"

"Nay, I thought it a very natural one, as

as you had avowed a predilection in her favour: but with whom do you suppose she has eloped?"

"That I cannot pretend to say," replied the confused Algernon.

"Well, I have no right to call you to an account; if Mr. Belthorpe will give you absolution, I am ready to do the same."

"Why, you are as bad as Madame, who accused me point blank of having seduced her daughter, when she was missing, and preached about crimes, and God's wrath, and complaining to grandfather, till I was obliged to take her down a peg; so we parted in a miff. Belthorpe was also very angry with her, as he was convinced Pauline was gone off with an officer, who had often been seen at Chedworth of late. As for me——."

Here, to his great joy, they were interrupted, with the information that the Marquis's carriage was in waiting, as they were to dine at five upon Lady Winifred's account; and our hero did not resume the subject during their short drive.

CHAP. X.

Lady Winifred and her party had preceded the brothers into St. James's-square; therefore our hero did not, as he had hoped, witness the first meeting between the spinster and the bride, to whom Mr. Albany was now introduced by Lord Derwent; and as she rather placed his rude gazes to the score of her charms, she felt inclined to make great allowances for his want of politeness, and was in consequence even more courteous towards him than she was towards Rosalie, whom she considered as a *rival too near the throne* to admit of her becoming a favourite, as she was extremely elegantly dressed,

dressed, her hair having been arranged by a very fashionable hair-dresser, by the desire of Lady Winifred, who wished her to display her brother's present to the greatest advantage, she told the lovely girl, when in fact she was extremely anxious to convince Lord Derwent that she was much handsomer than the low woman upon whom he had bestowed his name, merely because her face happened to strike his fancy; and our hero felt proud of his relationship to so beautiful a girl, who looked unusually animated, while, in a low voice, she thanked him for the costly marks of his affection, he had so kindly bestowed upon her; while Algernon, having considered her from head to foot, exclaimed—"Mercy, Rose! why I never saw you so smart before; and you can tell us what's the clock now, I perceive. Why, how came you by all those gimcracks, which cost more, I will be bound to say, than I shall be allowed for my private expences, while I remain in town?"

"Your sister is indebted to the Marquis of Endermay, Mr. Albany, for those ornaments, which appear to have excited your envy," said Lady Winifred, with a stately air; "and I presume he thought himself at liberty to make her such a present, without acquainting you with his intentions."

"I should suppose so," cried Lord Derwent, as he was certainly not aware that he should render this young gentleman jealous.

Algernon declared—"He never had been, nor never should be, jealous of his sister, whom he was, on the contrary, pleased to see so smart;" and, to his great joy, the appearance of the butler withdrew the attention of the company from his mortified countenance, as he was, in reality, extremely hurt at not having participated in his brother's liberality; he therefore endeavoured to console himself, by making very free with every delicacy upon the table, and by washing down what he eat,

by very copious draughts of wine, and succeeded in stupifying himself, therefore mixed very little in the conversation during the evening; and as Lady Winifred had ordered her carriage at an early hour, she was the first to depart.

Our hero requested she would allow him to see her home, as he knew she liked to have a beau in her suite. He wished, besides, to avoid a *tête-à-tête* with his brother, whom he must, had he gone home, have asked to alight in Arlington-street; he therefore sent him to his lodgings in his chariot, desiring it might, after setting him down, come for him in Welbeck-street:—and as the rustic had been very little amused at this certainly formal dinner, he was glad when he found himself once more at home, telling Belthorpe, whom he found waiting for him, "that if it was not for the honour of the thing, he should not care if he never visited his titled grandfather any more, whom he was convinced was as proud as Lucifer, and not half so good-tempered as

as Father Basil," as he familiarly styled Mr. Langhton; dwelling, with unfeigned envy, upon our hero's generosity towards Rosalie.

Belthorpe was convinced that he would be no less kind to him, were he to put him to the test; alledging, that it would have been very absurd to have given him any baubles to decorate his person, and what no man of sense would have thought of, particularly Lord Endermay, who never wore any himself, and who always dressed remarkably plain; wishing he would take him for his model in that respect, and not endeavour to vie with Lord Dunluce, who gloried in setting the most absurd fashions.

While he was thus endeavouring to reason with his weak pupil, the Marquis and Lady Winifred, whom the young ladies had left *tête-à-tête,* upon their arrival at home were discussing the merits of the bride;—the lady was convinced her brother already repented of his folly; and she only wished he might never have greater reason than he had

had at present. She might have suited Algernon Albany, admitting neither of them had ever been permitted to emerge from the precincts of the old Priory, for both were equally out of their place in a fashionable circle; "whereas your sister, Marquis," she went on, "is fit to appear with distinction in any company. Had Lord Derwent married an equally well-informed young woman, I could have overlooked her want of birth; but Rosalie is almost an unique; and I make no doubt her mother was no less captivating when she stole your father's heart, as he was the flower of the Albany family, I give you my honour, as are his eldest son and daughter: but I do not wish to surfeit you with compliments, as the bride, more than once, did me; therefore, to change the subject, I am fearful you thought Rosalie was to be presented at St. James's with my ward, when you laid out so much money upon her. Now the fact is, Lady William Albany does not chuse she should, as she

does

does not think she will marry a man of sufficient rank, to make it necessary for her to appear in the circle; and as Mr. Langhton has very properly set his face against Algernon's being presented, it might make him jealous, for which he seems to have a great propensity, were his sister to be more favoured."

"Or she might," thought our hero, "eclipse her less favoured cousin."

He, however, affected to be exactly of her Ladyship's opinion, who next lamented the necessity there was for her ward's visiting that vulgar, low-born woman, her mother, who had expressed an anxious wish to see her; and Lord Derwent, after connecting himself so strangely, had not chosen to resent an application she had made to him; therefore, as her wish had his sanction, she must suffer Miss Albany to wait upon her, should she, as she certainly would, either come or send for her, as she could not think of inviting her into Welbeck-street.

As

As the Marquis could not enter into these petty troubles of her Ladyship, and did not participate in her contempt for Mrs. Salvadore, he was not sorry that the entrance of his sister and cousin allowed him to depart, as his carriage had been some time in waiting; and the following morning he received a letter from Dr. Campbell, in which he informed him that the General, his daughter, and suite, had landed at Falmouth a few hours before, and proposed setting out for London the next day, as the former was extremely anxious to be upon the road, a house having been taken by his agent for his reception, in Harley-street, Cavendish-square, where he fancied he should feel much better than he did at present, or, at all events, that he should be within reach of the first medical advice, of which he appeared in great need; adding, he was in a very bad humour when he landed, owing to the ship in which he came over having been one of the last to make the Lizard, as she was a very bad sailer,

sailer, though she had excellent accommodations for passengers; and a contrary wind having sprung up soon after they had descried land, she had been beating about for eight-and-forty hours in the offing, to the great inconvenience of the splenetic nabob, whose temper was by no means improved since his residence abroad, nor by the declining state of his health, which greatly added to his irritability. He was, however, all impatience to see the Marquis of Endermay, to whom he still hoped to be related.

That, the Marquis thought, was very problematical, as he was convinced that the General was not likely to improve upon acquaintance, since no man was more inclined to make allowances for the infirmities of human nature than the Doctor; and if he saw much to condemn in the nabob, he was well convinced that he should see still more. He thought it, however, necessary to mention when he was expected, to Lady Winifred, when he paid her his

next

next visit, who recollected him as having been one of the most dissipated young men of his time; and after running through a noble fortune, had gone to India, in the desperate hope of retrieving his affairs, where, if she understood right, he had married a girl who had been sent out as a venture; enquiring whether it was supposed he had made a large fortune?

The Marquis understood he had; adding, "his wife had been dead two or three years; but his only surviving daughter has accompanied him to England."

"How old may she be?" asked her curious Ladyship.

The Marquis could not inform her.—"Nearly of age," he presumed.

"Then the General must endeavour to marry her into some family likely to overlook her mother's want of delicacy and of birth, since no modest woman would ever take such a voyage in search of a husband."

Our hero did not chuse to argue the point with her, much less to tell her the

General

General hoped to engraft his daughter into her family; but having concluded her philippic against young women who carry their charms to the Indian market, she said, upon our hero's enquiring after his cousin, who had not made her appearance—"Oh, she is probably inhaling the pure air of St. Mary Axe ere this, my Lord, since, about an hour ago, a thundering rap at the door drew me to the window, and I was astonished to see an amazing showy carriage in waiting, in which was Mrs. Salvadore, and her two daughters, by her present husband. She was modest enough not to alight, but sent me in a note, requesting I would allow her eldest daughter to accompany her home, and to spend a few days with her and her sisters at Hackney, alledging, as I expected, my silly brother's having authorized her to perplex me with such a petition. I ordered my servants to shew the whole *tribe* into the front parlour, and then putting her mother's note into Miss Albany's hands, I desired her to do as she

pleased;

pleased; and though she knew how averse I have always been to her forming any intimacy with the low set, she is actually gone into the city with the vulgar beings, and is to stay all night at their villa, as they misname their box at Hackney."

The Marquis endeavoured to soften the good lady's displeasure, as he thought her ward had acted very naturally, and displayed her good sense, in not shrinking from her mother's acquaintance, because she resided in the city; and he could believe that there were both amiable and good people among the followers of the law of Moses; but as he did not chuse to hurt Lady Winifred's feelings, by speaking his real sentiments, he soon took his leave; and little of moment occurred till the ensuing Saturday, when the Umfreville family arrived in London.

Our hero had devoted his morning to Juliano, whom he took home with him to dinner, having given orders to be denied to every one, as he wished to enjoy his

his favourite's society, and to hear the Doctor's report of the East Indians, without being liable to interruptions; and, as he expected, his amiable tutor hastened home, the moment he had seen his travelling companions safe housed. The Marquis and his guest were just sitting down to dinner, and both were extremely happy to see him. He fully participated in their satisfaction; and as soon as the servants had withdrawn, the Marquis requested he would give them his real opinion of the General and his daughter.

"I think I wrote you word, that his temper did not appear to be much improved, which may perhaps be in some measure attributed to his being in a very deplorable state of health; but his pride, which was needless, seems also to have greatly increased, in consequence of his having accumulated an immense fortune, which he will not live to enjoy, and which he fancies gives him a right to tyrannize over all his dependants and inferiors, as, like Bonaparte,

parte, he is arbitrary in the extreme, and has no more guard over his temper or passions. Indeed, were his strength to second his intentions, I am convinced he could knock down any servant who did not fly to execute his commands, which are always issued in the most peremptory haughty tone, and so concisely, that they are frequently misunderstood; yet he ought, ere this, to have been convinced of the inefficacy of riches, since they can neither purchase health, nor that happy frame of mind which enables their possessors to render them a blessing to themselves and all their connexions."

"And yet he is related to Lord Endermay!" exclaimed Juliano.

"In a very distant degree," resumed the Doctor, perfectly understanding his allusion; "but the General has so long been accustomed to command every thing and every body, and has met with so little resistance, that I do not think he is aware of his rude ungentlemanlike behaviour, though

though I have reason to believe he endeavoured to curb his temper in my presence, as he soon perceived that I was not inclined to pay the rich nabob more respect than I had formerly done the ruined Major Umfreville: but his servants tremble before him, and seem all eyes and ears when he speaks, well aware of the storm the slightest appearance of neglect raises in his bosom. At times he affects to believe himself upon the verge of the grave; but the next minute he entertains you with his plans for the future, which would lead you to suppose that he was in good health, and not more than five-and-twenty. In short, he is a most unpleasant companion; and it required all my patience to enable me to listen, in silence, to his intemperate sallies of passion."

"Then I am sure those that are doomed to inhabit the same house with him must be miserable indeed," replied the Marquis.—"He was not aware, I presume, that my grandfather was no more when he landed?"

"He

"He was by no means prepared for the intelligence, which I almost dreaded to communicate, when I saw what a poor emaciated figure he was; but the evident want of feeling he betrayed towards his fellow-creatures, and his murmurs at having been prevented from landing, owing to the shifting of the wind, so soon as he had expected, almost steeled my heart against him. I am therefore fearful I did not impart the melancholy intelligence in the gentle manner I ought to have done, as he certainly was very much affected, more than I had expected; but having rather recovered from the shock his feelings had sustained, he asked me whether you had been privy to his correspondence with the late Marquis?

"I told him that you had been abroad for the last two years, and were so when your grandfather died, who had merely mentioned him (the General) to you in general terms; acknowledging that his last letter had fallen into your hands, which

had induced you to send me to give him the meeting in Cornwall.

"He declared himself infinitely obliged to us both, and then asked me to describe your person, mode of life, &c. &c. I presume my answers satisfied him, as he is now all impatience to be introduced to you.—I advised him to dedicate this evening to repose; and as I fancy he wishes to appear to advantage in your eyes, he gave up to my better judgment, but hopes you will favour him with an early visit to-morrow."

"I shall certainly oblige him; but now, as you described me to the General, pray favour me with a description of his daughter, whom he kindly wishes should bear my name."

"I must beg to be excused," was the reply, in a gay tone, "as I wish you to see her with unprejudiced eyes, and to judge for yourself. The General says she is a very handsome likeness of her mother; and after his own dear self, I believe he loves his daughter, whom he has not, as I had

had foreseen, spoiled by too much indulgence, as she stands as much in awe of him as doubtless her late mother did; and he has an excellent aid-de-camp in her governess, or rather duenna, who watches over her with the eyes of a lynx, for fear their joint tyranny should induce her to place herself under the protection of some untitled man, which, I am sure, would be a crime *de leze Majesté*, that the nabob could never forgive; and I really believe his daughter is restrained as much from principle as from fear, from revolting against his authority. Her mother, he acknowledges, fell a sacrifice to the climate; but he did not add that his abominable tyrannical temper had previously half broken her heart, and had hurried his daughter into a decline, I should not have been surprised; though possibly, from being earlier accustomed to his overbearing arrogance, she found it easier to submit to his caprices:—so now, my Lord, suffer me to enquire how all your family do, as I am

more anxious to see your sister, than I am convinced you are to see your cousin."

The Marquis briefly detailed the general occurrences which had taken place since he left London, enquiring whether he had completed the statement of facts respecting Juliano?—"He had," he said, "and would submit it to his and Lord Algernon's inspection, as soon as he had written it fair," not chusing to read what must inform him to whom they supposed he was indebted for his birth before the youth, who retired at an early hour, attended by Donald; and the following morning, after church, our hero and the Doctor drove into Harley-street, where the General had found a proper suite engaged to receive him, in addition to the Indian servants, who had accompanied him over. The visitors were conducted up stairs into the back drawing-room, where they found the nabob, who had but just risen, extended upon a sofa, near which sat his daughter, who was reading the newspaper

paper to him; and, on the other side of the fire-place, at a tea-table, sat a very shewy woman, apparently between forty and fifty, who was in the art of pouring out a cup of coffee for the invalid, but who rose the moment the Marquis was within the room, as did Miss Umfreville, and remained standing till the Doctor had introduced our hero to his great-uncle, who hoped his Lordship would excuse his not rising to receive him, as he was so unwell, that if he had not entertained the hope of seeing him, he should not yet have left his bed.

The Marquis expressed his regret at hearing he was so indisposed, and was next introduced by the General to his daughter, and finally to Mrs. Glover, whom he denominated Miss Umfreville's governess.—At last, however, the party got seated, when the General pressed his visitors to take a cup of coffee, as Mrs. Glover was among the very few people who succeeded

in making it; he hoped another cup would revive him; adding—"I have had a dreadful night, Doctor. I told you I should, before you left me; I dreaded the idea of sleeping in one of these pigeon-holes in London."

The Doctor agreed that the air of the metropolis was seldom very congenial to invalids; while Mrs. Glover, as there were no servants in waiting, presented the Marquis with a cup of coffee, giving her pupil a look, which induced her, in a timid voice, to enquire "What his Lordship would chuse to take with it?"

Not feeling inclined to eat, our hero politely declined tasting any of the various delicacies which were set out to tempt the invalid, who, being more attentive to the young Peer than to what the Doctor was saying, called out, in what he meant to be a very gentle tone—"Why, child, don't you hand the Marquis what there is upon the table?" adding, "I never suffer any servants

servants to wait at breakfast, my Lord, they are such a restraint upon the conversation."

Our hero assented to the justice of his observation; and as both ladies now approached him with a plate in each hand, out of mere compliment he took a rusk from the youngest, who seemed flattered by his politeness; and she was so exquisitely beautiful, and there was such a diffident simplicity in her manner, that he mentally exclaimed—"Sweet girl, thou art indeed to be pitied;" and there was, besides, such a mellow sweetness in her voice, when she spoke, that he felt extremely interested in her favour, and sincerely wished she was the daughter of any other man. She was in her twentieth year, and had never been allowed the gratification of a single wish, unsanctioned by her father's consent, to whom she was obliged to appeal, upon the most trivial occasions, and whose will was as much law to her as to any of his most menial servants; still he

was extremely anxious to see her well married; and as he was conscious that the Marquis must know he wished her to bear his name, he had been extremely anxious to see them together; and having done so, he was more bent than ever upon accomplishing his favourite project.

"You are the very image of your late mother, Marquis," he exclaimed, "and extremely like my sister, who was reckoned one of the most beautiful women in Scotland, when she married your grandfather."

The Marquis did not, of course, affect to notice what he deemed absurd compliments, while the Doctor felt convinced that the proud nabob could condescend to flatter his superiors, particularly when he wished to conciliate their esteem; but he could have told him that he had not chosen the right road to his pupil's heart, who, but for the daughter's sake, would probably have soon dropped his acquaintance; but pity, it is truly said, is so near akin

akin to love, that the latter is often mistaken for the former; and as the General was a very accurate observer, his coffee, as he had foreseen, greatly revived his spirits, but did not prevent him from lamenting how miserably he was lodged, to what he had expected, according to the orders he had given his agent. He must, however, look out for a larger house, and in a more airy situation, or he should be dead in a month.

The Marquis assured him that there were far better houses to be met with ready furnished, so many families were now in the habit of taking up their abode at hotels.

"For people in health, they might be desirable abodes," he replied; but he could not bear the noise there must always be in such places; declaring he did not think London at all improved since he had last left it, as even the nobility were still the worse lodged of any in Europe.

The Marquis begged leave to differ in opinion; and the polite nabob agreed he

might be splenetic, or too fastidious, but assured his auditor that his inferior servants were better lodged at Calcutta than he was himself at present; entering into various details respecting his habitation, which induced our hero to say, there were indeed few houses in London to be compared to the one he had been describing.

Mrs. Glover, who had been glancing her eyes over the paper, now exclaimed—"Here is a villa advertised to be sold, that would, in my opinion, exactly suit you, General, admitting it answers the description given of it."

"Read the account of it, Glover, since any thing must be preferable to this gloomy abode."

The lady did as he desired; and as the dining-parlour was said to be twenty-eight feet by twenty-two, the saloon thirty-five by twenty-six, library in proportion, seven masters bed-rooms, with every &c. and every necessary domestic office, he agreed the house might suit his purpose; and was

happy

happy to hear it was delightfully situated upon the banks of the Thames, about five miles from London, and that the pleasure-grounds, in which were included a pinery, and grapery, were said to cover twelve acres of ground; therefore he found he should not be stinted for room, and might display his taste for Eastern magnificence, upon a grand scale. The furniture, which was very modern, was either to be taken at a fair valuation, or to be sold by auction on the premises, at the option of the purchaser.

As money was no object to him, the General said, he would take every thing as it stood, and alter and improve at his leisure; the house must be habitable, and he did not care how soon he removed thither, though it was hardly the season for the country; but he was convinced he should not be able to exist in town, and his friends would, he hoped, pay him frequent visits, as it was merely a morning's drive—"You are fond of riding, Marquis, the Doctor

told me, therefore I may hope to see you."

"Most assuredly," was the reply, rather encouraging his wish to leave town, which, having resolved to do, he changed the conversation, excusing himself for having dwelled so long upon his future arrangements; adding—"The Marquis of Derwent has very lately taken to himself a young wife, I hear. I wish he may not find her worse to manage than a young recruit;—nor should I be at all surprised, were she to desert at last. We were once very intimate, but he is some years my senior, and I am more in need of a nurse than a wife."

Our hero said but little in reply, but, at his request, entered into various details respecting his family, and received, as they were meant, the nabob's compliments, upon his having already distinguished himself among the defenders of his country.—The General next hoped he would fix an early day for dining with him. "Was he engaged on Tuesday?"

As

As our hero was not, he agreed to spend it in Harley-street, much to the old gentleman's satisfaction; who next entertained him with a brief abstract of his own life, wishing to convince him that he had done wonders for his King and country in the East, and that he had honourably acquired a princely fortune, which would, in due time, devolve to his daughter; regretting that his riches would not purchase him a better constitution, since ill health effectually prevented his enjoying any of the luxuries now within his reach.

"Your sister is in town, I think you told me, Marquis; I shall therefore feel myself obliged if you will introduce her to my girl; her being a Catholic is of no consequence, in my opinion, since young girls seldom meet to discuss religious subjects, and Zara is no fool, I give you my honour. Indeed it would be a d——d shame if she was, as her education has cost me what many parents would deem a very handsome fortune. Her mother wished me to have sent

sent her to England, but I have no opinion of public schools, and I had no female relation to whom I could delegate the charge, your mother being no more; and I wished her to pursue her studies under Mrs. Umfreville's own eyes, who was a most excellent woman; and fortunately for the girl, she lived long enough to instil her own principles into her mind. I know the world has been pleased to say my late wife was not a woman of family. She was a merchant's daughter, I agree, and might have married a nobleman, had not her father failed, which led to her visiting India, fortunately for me, since, had I searched Europe for a wife, I should not have met with her equal; and if I acted imprudently in my youth, I retrieved both my fortune and character, even before I married; and, for the last fifteen years of my life, I have lived like a prince, and have been surrounded by a court; but now I am come home to die in obscurity. Would to Heaven I had lost my life in the field of battle,

battle, which would have been far preferable to lingering out a cheerless existence, as I seem doomed to do."

Our hero hoped he should find him in better health and spirits the following morning, when he promised to look in upon him again, and to bring his sister, who would, he was convinced, be extremely happy to form an acquaintance with Miss Umfreville. The General was profuse in his acknowledgments, and reluctantly suffered the Marquis to depart, infinitely more prepossessed in his daughter's than in his favour.

CHAP.

CHAP. XI.

Doctor Campbell having been extremely struck with Miss Umfreville, when they first met, and who had had various opportunities of conversing with her during their journey, was convinced that she deserved all the praises her father had lavished upon her, which he told our hero, as they drove from the door, asking him, in a gay tone, how his heart stood affected, now he had seen this Eastern luminary?

"I think her extremely handsome, and very much to be pitied, Doctor; but I am not yet in love."

"I can only wish you were," was the

the reply; "since I positively think she would make you an excellent wife.—The servants all adore her, which is a proof of her good disposition; and she has been so well broken in, that I think you never need fear her running restiff; and you will certainly never have to blush for her, since I believe her to be quite as highly accomplished as her father boasts, as I know she speaks several languages, and handles a pencil inimitably."

"Still you will not talk me into love with her," gaily replied our hero; "so, not to dwell any longer upon her perfections, give me your opinion of Mrs. Glover."

"She is a woman of sense, and has been extremely well educated, and would, I dare believe, have condescended to become the General's *chere amie*, did she not hope to induce him to bestow his name upon her, which she was well convinced he would never do upon his mistress; and as she is an adept in the art of flattering his foibles, and is a slave to his caprices, she is at present

sent in high favour. Whether she will bring him to her terms, I cannot pretend to say; I should think not."

"No more should I," resumed our hero, "as he reprobated my grandfather for having played the fool. At all events, he will wish his daughter should marry first, for fear I, or any other suitor, should object to Mrs. Glover for a mama."

"That reflection will certainly have great weight with the nabob," replied the Doctor, whom the Marquis set down in his way home, at a friend's, with whom he was engaged to dine, and then proceeded into Welbeck-street, having promised to accompany Lady Winifred and her companions into Hyde-Park, and to dine *en famille* in Portland-place.

The Marquis of Derwent and his fair bride gave them the meeting at Lord Algernon's; and after dinner, our hero informed the party that General Umfreville was arrived in London.

"I am glad to hear it," said Lord Derwent,

went, "for he and I are old friends; but he had made very free with his constitution before he went abroad, and he has resided some time in India, which must have been very inimical to his health, for he is not an old man—about my standard, if I recollect right."

The Earl gave our hero a look, but did not speak.

"Only one daughter, you say, Marquis?" proceeded the old gentleman; "is she handsome?"

"She is even more than handsome, my Lord, as I have never seen a more beautiful woman, the present company excepted—well understood."

"I give you credit for your afterthought, Endermay; but since you have seen so much to admire in the girl, I hope you mean to do as I have done very speedily, as you must have the ball at your foot; so do not let such a prize escape you;—she will soon be surrounded with admirers;

ers; and these Eastern ladies are very forward plants."

"Does your Lordship think that any recommendation?" asked out hero.

Lady Winifred called her brother to order, who declared he meant no reflection upon Miss Umfreville, whose family and fortune would enable her to pick and chuse among men of the first rank.

Lady Winifred agreed she was extremely well allied on the father's side: and as her mother was no more, it might never be known who she was.

"And if it were," cried Lord Derwent, "that would not prevent her daughter from making a good match; and as I know General Umfreville was always renowned for being a good disciplinarian, I am convinced his daughter will make an exceeding good wife; for no man ever kept his mistresses in better order; and I dare say his late wife was under excellent controul, and understood the word of command as well as his soldiers."

Lady

Lady Algernon, perceiving that the old Marquis had felt himself offended at Lady Winifred's allusions to his wife's want of family, broke in upon his encomiums upon the General's mode of managing women, to express a wish to be introduced to his daughter.

"Then may I hope, my dear aunt, you will do the honours of my house, when I invite the General and Miss Umfreville to dine with me?"

"Very willingly; I wish to see them."

"So do I," said the Earl.

"I will positively call in Harley-street to-morrow," cried Lord Derwent; "and rally my old friend out of his dislike to London. He used to be a very amusing *bon vivant;* and surely he has not yet outlived the pleasures of the table and the bottle."

The Marquis encouraged him in his intention of renewing their former acquaintance, and politely requested Lady Winifred would suffer his sister to accompany him into

into Harley-street the following morning. His asking her permission upon such an occasion was truly gratifying to her precise Ladyship, who assured him she should be extremely happy to be introduced herself to the young lady, of whom she had now formed a very high opinion.

This was said with a significant look, but he did not chuse to take her hint.

"Shall I accompany you, brother, into Harley-street?" asked Algernon, who was generally very silent at these family parties, "as I am very curious to see this handsome girl."

"Very possible; but as she has no brothers, I can have no pretence for taking you with me, as I am not yet authorised to introduce any male visitors there."

"Else I meant to have preferred a similar petition, Marquis," obtruded Lord Dunluce; "but now I must trust to chance for obtaining a view of this Eastern belle."

"You shall meet her in Arlington-street," said our hero, "as I mean to ask her

her and the General to favour me with their company this day week; and whether or nót, I hope to have the pleasure of entertaining the present company there next Sunday."

As this had been previously settled, no objection was of course made by any one present, as they were all more or less impatient to see the East Indians.

Not having given him any invitation the over-night, our hero was rather surprised at finding Algernon calmly seated, reading the newspaper in the breakfast-parlour, when he came down the following morning.

"Here I am, brother, unasked, you find, come to breakfast with you."

The Marquis assured him he was no less welcome, enquiring after Mr. Belthorpe, and how they liked their new lodgings?

"Oh, they are very comfortable: I hope you will look in upon us when you come that way."

"Certainly," was the reply, wondering what had brought him from home so early;

early; surely not to renew his overnight's request, to be introduced to the General and his daughter, as he seemed rather embarrassed during their meal, which the Marquis did not chuse to notice; but when the servants were withdrawn, after a good deal of circumlocution, he ventured to ask his dear brother to lend him fifty pounds.

"Undoubtedly," was the reply, instantly filling up a check for twice the sum, which he put into his hands.

"Well, how kind!" said the gratified young man.—"Really this is being too good. I dare say you wonder how I came to be in want already; but you must know I was not very flushed with cash when I came to town; and what with one thing and another, I have contrived to get through all I had. Belthorpe keeps the money for our general expences, and I dare not apply to him yet, as he would come to close questions, which I wish to avoid; but the night before last, our new landlord

landlord gave us a bit of a treat, and after supper we all played at a game called Speculation; and I am no great card-player, never having been allowed to touch one at the Priory; but this was so easy, a child might understand it, they said; so I was prevailed on to join the party, and had such a run of ill luck, that I lost more than I chose to acknowledge to Belthorpe, which induced me to apply to you, as you once told me I might, in cases of emergency; so I hope you will not be offended at my having taken such a liberty."

"By no means: for your own sake, I would have you be cautious in future, since there are many people in London who merely live by their skill at cards, and other games of hazard; therefore never suffer yourself to be tempted to play, but in Mr. Belthorpe's company, then you will run no risk of losing more than you can well afford."

Algernon was ready to promise every thing his brother required, who was not

sorry when Dr. Campbell, who had breakfasted with Juliano, broke in upon their *tête-à-tête;* and Algernon, who was extremely anxious to finger the cash, seized the opportunity to take leave of his generous brother, who learnt from the Doctor that his favourite was very well, and ready to swear to the truth of the short narrative of his own life, which he had drawn up, and which the Earl of Algernon meant to submit immediately to the inspection of the crown lawyers; with the longer detail relative to their suspicions respecting his relationship to them, which he had of course not read to the young man.

"Then do you proceed into Portland-place, my good friend, while I drive into Welbeck-street for Rosalie, who will certainly, while she remains in town, be a very eligible companion for the fair Zara."

"They seem to me to have been cast in the same mould," was the reply; "therefore sincerely do I wish that they may one day be nearer related."

"Shall

"Shall I set you down at my uncle's?" was the reply; "or are you inclined to walk thither?"

"I had rather walk, as I have several places to call at; therefore adieu, till we meet again."

Our hero therefore proceeded alone into Welbeck-street, and after sitting half an hour with Lady Winifred, who said she saw very little of Mr. Albany, as he never called upon his sister, except to take her to church, our hero urged he might be afraid of intruding, as he could not suppose he wished to appear deficient in respect to her Ladyship.

Rosalie spoke to the same effect. Lady Winifred therefore agreed she might be captious. Still she could not help wishing he bore more resemblance to his kind advocates, to whom she became daily more attached: and between one and two they proceeded to the General's, who was alone with his daughter, and in momentary expectation of them. The Marquis having in-

troduced his companion to the General, who had risen to receive her, he next presented her to Miss Umfreville, "who would be proud," said her father, "of ranking a sister of the Marquis of Endermay's among her friends."

The half trembling timid Zara made so artless an acknowledgment to our hero, for having thus, as she said, anticipated the first wish of her heart, that his Lordship's *pity* for her greatly increased; and even her tyrannical father seemed pleased. Having placed Rosalie next herself, she seemed, our hero fancied, to feel a sensation bordering on happiness; who, not seeing Mrs. Glover, thought it necessary to enquire after her.

"Oh, she is nobody, you know, Marquis," was the reply; "else I should not have permitted her to leave home, when you and Miss Albany were expected; but I have sent her to look at the villa we were talking of yesterday; since, should that not answer my expectations, there are

many

many others to be had, Page, my agent, tells me; or I may hire one, till I can make a purchase exactly to my mind; but I wish to be quite at home as soon as possible."

The Marquis, upon whom the task of entertaining him devolved, agreed he would find himself more comfortable in a house of his own; when, to his great joy, the General was informed that Mr. Fordyce was below.

"Shew him into the back drawing-room," was his order.—Then turning to our hero—"I must request leave of absence for a few minutes, as Fordyce is come by appointment, and upon business of importance."

Malcolm requested he would not hurry his friend away upon his account, as he certainly should not find the time long in Miss Umfreville's company; who, like Rosalie, seemed rejoiced when the nabob left them to themselves, and their conversation soon became very gay and very general; our hero drawing the lovely Zara

on to describe the manners and customs of the East, the luxurious mode of living in which the resident Europeans indulged, and the peculiarities of the natives; yet though much more animated than his Lordship had ever seen her, if she heard any thing move, her eyes were directly turned towards the door by which the General had made his exit, which was a proof that she lived in constant fear of her tyrannical father.

Our hero told her how anxious Lady Algernon was to be introduced to her, mentioning when he hoped to see her in Arlington-street, Rosalie gaily describing every one whom she would meet, hoping she would make due allowances for Algernon, who had not yet rubbed off the rust he had contracted at the Priory.

"I shall be extremely happy if I am permitted to cultivate the acquaintance of the Countess of Algernon, and to see you often, my dear Miss Albany; but I do not suppose my father will remain long in London,

don, he is so unwell, which renders him extremely restless. While in India, he was always anticipating the comforts he had in store, whenever he returned to England; and now, though he has not spent two whole days in London, he wishes himself back again at Calcutta.

"During our voyage, he proposed calling in the first medical advice, the moment he reached town, and sincerely do I wish he would; but he is now convinced that physicians will merely hasten his dissolution, and that Mrs. Glover understands his complaints better than any of them. I wish he may not be mistaken."

She spoke in such a feeling tone, and was evidently so anxious for her father's recovery, that the Marquis felt more and more interested for her, and endeavoured to raise her spirits, by prognosticating that his native air, frequent change of scene, and a little gay society, would have the happiest effect upon the General's health—Even the amusement he would derive from

improving any villa he might purchase, would prevent him from being so sensible of his debility; and he made no doubt of his suffering her to participate in the various diversions London afforded, under the protection of Lady Algernon or Lady Winifred Albany.

"I much doubt your latter prognostics proving true, Marquis; and believe me, I shall be completely satisfied, should my father regain his health and strength, as irritability is one of the symptoms of his complaint."

Some drawings, which were lying upon a table under the glass, now caught the Marquis's attention: they were different views taken in India, and inimitably well executed.

"I presume these are your doing, my dear cousin?" said the Marquis.

She coloured, while she replied in the affirmative; and could have added, that her father had ordered them to be placed where he had found them, on purpose to excite his

his notice. This our hero had already guessed, and perfectly acquitted her of having wished to display her superior talents.

Rosalie, who had also risen to examine them, was in raptures, and anxiously pointed out to her brother every fresh beauty she discovered; declaring she should be half tempted to commit all her miserable daubs at the Priory to the flames, when she returned home.

"That would be very absurd, my dear girl," said the Marquis; "since, though you will never equal Miss Umfreville, you have succeeded much better than could have been expected, having never had any regular master."

"Then your designs have far greater merit than mine will ever have, in my eyes," rejoined Zara; "since, as my father justly observes, he spent a fortune upon my education; and as my mother wished me to succeed, and my father would never have forgiven me, had I proved idle or in-

attentive to my masters, my success may, in some respects, be attributed to compulsion, since I was frequently inclined to lay down my pencil, and wearied my masters with my fears, that I should never overcome the difficulties of the art."

While she was thus endeavouring to convince our hero that she was not vain of her superior acquirements, he and Rosalie were turning over her designs, among which were a collection of figures, in the various costumes of the East, and some portraits, extremely well finished.

"Are any of these done for Mrs. Glover?" innocently enquired Rosalie.

"Oh no; her features are sufficiently engraved on my memory; and except to oblige the General, I shall never venture to commit them to paper, conscious that I should never please her with respect to the likeness."

The Marquis and Rosalie smiled, which induced Zara to add—"Not that I mean to

to insinuate, though rather vain of her person, that Mrs. Glover has not many very good qualities."

"Of that I make no doubt," resumed Rosalie; "but even good people are not always very amiable."

At that moment they heard a bell ring, and footsteps approaching. Zara's vivacity and animation instantly fled, which induced our hero to put up a mental prayer, we will hope, for the General's reformation, who looked pleased upon perceiving they were examining the contents of the port-folio, asking the Marquis what he thought of Zara's drawings?

"I never yet saw any better, General, and very few to equal those I have been admiring."

"Indeed! but you must not make the girl vain. I have been told before, that she has succeeded in her attempts to delineate the beauties of nature; and as it is a pretty amusement for a woman, and likely to give her a taste for home, I chose she

should cultivate the art, as she shall never, with my consent, become a modish woman of fashion."

The Marquis thought, that where young people evinced a decided taste for any of the fine arts, it ought to be encouraged, under certain restrictions, as a sedentary life was extremely hurtful to the constitution; and if the mornings were devoted to improvement, the evenings ought to be devoted to innocent amusement.

"I hope a life of fashionable dissipation does not come under your denomination of innocent amusement, Marquis. I have endeavoured to render Zara a proper wife for a sensible man, and to give her accomplishments to amuse her leisure hours, as I never wish her to shew off in public; it only renders young people bold and assuming; and, by G—d, if ever I was to hear her name lightly mentioned, after marriage, I would save her husband the trouble and expence of suing for a divorce, by putting a pistol to her head myself."

"Rather

"Rather a summary way of proceeding, General," was the reply (it ought to have been observed that the young ladies had left the room, upon the General's entrance), "and certainly rather a dangerous resolution."

"Why it might bring me to the gallows; but that would not deter me from wreaking my revenge, even upon my only child, should she ever give the world reason to mention her with contempt."

To our hero's great relief, who was very much at a loss what to say to the nabob, as he did not wish to quarrel with him, the Marquis of Derwent was announced, and immediately shewn in.

"Welcome home, my dear Umfreville!" was his first salute.—"Why, z—ds! old Time seems to have dealt more hardly with you than with me, though I have grandchildren older than your daughter; but I rejoice to see you, and hope you will shake off all your Indian complaints, now you are once more amongst us."

The

The General made a suitable reply to this speech, and appeared very happy to see his old friend, ringing the bell for Miss Umfreville; anxious to introduce her to the Marquis, who paid her some very gallant compliments, declaring that it was well for his grandsons he had so lately entered the holy pale, since, had he been still a widower, he should indubitably have increased the number of Miss Umfreville's admirers.

She smiled at his rhapsodies, and he recommended to his old friend to follow his example, launching out in praise of the Marchioness of Derwent, who would be extremely happy to see Miss Umfreville, whom he invited, as well as her father, to his grand fête. The Marquis seized the opportunity to request the General would favour him with his company the following Sunday, as all his family were impatient to be introduced to him and Miss Umfreville.

This hint decided the nabob, who at last suffered

suffered him and Rosalie to depart, after making the former promise to accompany her brother to dine in Harley-street the next day, as he saw much to admire in her, and she was not, as he had feared, a fashionable Miss, proud of her rank, beauty, and accomplishments; therefore a very proper companion for his daughter.

Lord Derwent took his leave, at the same time telling the General he should expect to see him in St. James's-square the first time he went out, and assuring his daughter that she would only have to appear to be admired.

CHAP.

CHAP. XII.

Having set his sister down, our hero proceeded into Wells-street, where he spent an hour with Juliano, whom he wished he could have introduced in Harley-street, as he longed to hear his opinion of the fair Zara. Rosalie had been lavish in her praise, and had even hinted a wish that she might, in time, be nearer related to her, to Lady Winifred, not having chosen to speak so freely to her brother. The old lady was therefore extremely anxious to see her; and curiosity getting the better of her strict notions of etiquette, she told Rosalie she would call for her the next evening,

evening, as she was going to dine at a friend's in Cavendish-square; and, as doubtless the General would ask her up, she should thus see Miss Umfreville, and should then be better able to judge whether she would appear to advantage as Marchioness of Endermay. Before, however, he had heard her opinion upon the subject, our hero, who had dined with a very fashionable party, was more than once lost in reflection, and could not prevent his thoughts from wandering into Harley-street; and, during breakfast the next morning, he told the Doctor, that till some one took pity on the lovely girl, and made suitable proposals to the nabob (whom he was convinced was an old savage, instancing his threats to shoot his daughter), he feared she would remain an absolute prisoner.

The Doctor made no doubt she would, the General was so afraid of fortune-hunters, and seemed to have so very bad an opinion of the sex; but did not chuse to express

express his wishes that his pupil would prove her liberator, as he felt that this was a matter in which he ought to decide for himself.

At the appointed hour, the brother and sister drove to the General's, who received them with infinite cordiality; and the lovely Zara seemed still more happy to see them, as joy lighted up her eyes, and dimpled in her cheeks, while welcoming Rosalie: nor had the Marquis any reason to complain of the reception she gave him.—Mrs. Glover was of course the General's humble echo, who told the Marquis he proposed going to see the villa in question the next day, as Glover was extremely pleased with it, and it was ready for his immediate reception, though he meant to decorate it in the Eastern style, which he preferred to the Egyptian, now so much in vogue; at all events, the latter was more calculated for town than country-houses; displaying a variety of Indian views of villas, and pointing out the beauties in each,

each, and the improvements he could make in all.

The Marquis listened very patiently to these very uninteresting details, perceiving that Zara and Rosalie were in earnest discourse, and that Mrs. Glover was too busily employed in extolling the General's taste, to attend to them.

At last they were summoned to dinner, when the nabob displayed his amiable temper, by finding fault with every thing.—Even Mrs. Glover began to wax warm, he was so unreasonable; and our hero hinted that he would be starved in every other house, where he might visit, since he found so much to condemn in his own cook, and could not relish what were reckoned dainties at the first tables.

This had the desired effect, and induced him to apologize for his fretfulness and impatience, for which the Marquis was made ample amends, by hearing his daughter accompany her voice upon the harp during the afternoon, as she was perfect mistress

of

of the instrument, and sung with infinite taste and judgment. Even the General was soothed into an unusual good-humour.

Soon after nine, Lady Winifred Albany stopped at the door, and, as she had foreseen, was requested to walk in. The Marquis went down to enforce the General's intreaty, and she readily presented him with her hand. Her ward followed her out of the carriage, no less curious to see this East Indian heiress. The General apologised so politely, for not having waited upon her Ladyship at the coach-door, and seemed so happy to renew his acquaintance with her, that she was in an unusual good-humour, and extremely lavish of her compliments to Miss Umfreville, to whom she sincerely wished her ward had borne a greater resemblance, as she made no doubt, even should the Marquis of Endermay overlook her charms, of her marrying a man of equal rank; and as all these rather unexpected visits from the Albany family augured well, the General thought, he was in unusual good-

good-humour, when his guests departed; and even declared he was happy he had come to England: and the following morning he found himself well enough to leave cards in St. James's-square and in Arlington-street; after which he drove to the villa with his daughter and Mrs. Glover.

Our hero looked in upon his favourite in the morning, whose case was now before counsel; and they would not have thought they had earned their money, had they not taken due time for consideration, said Lord Algernon, upon whom he also called, and with whom he dined. Both him and the Countess wondered they saw so little of young Albany. The Marquis supposed he preferred the society of Belthorpe's friends; resolving, nevertheless, to look in upon him the next morning, which he did, soon after breakfast. To his great joy, he was from home; he therefore left a card; and then, curious to know whether the General had taken, or rather purchased,

chased, the villa, he proceeded into Harley-street. The nabob was in unusual spirits, and in a very good-humour, which was rather increased, by the appearance of his visitor; nor was the lovely Zara less pleased to see him, though her looks alone spoke her satisfaction.

The General was so full of his recent purchase, that he hardly suffered him to take a seat, before he informed him that he had bought the villa, furnished as it stood, and had already set various people to work under the gardener. A very intelligent fellow, W——, the surveyor, was to go down that morning, and to draw a plan of the necessary alterations he wished to make in the offices, as the house would do, when it was in part new furnished; and he meant to send one of the first upholsterers down the next day. The grounds could be beautified after he had taken possession, which he hoped to do in a fortnight, or three weeks at farthest, since money was no object, when put in competition with his

health and convenience—" Not that I mean to make it my constant residence," he went on, " as I have told Page to look out for a suitable purchase for me in the West of England, as I wish to have a spacious mansion-house, and a large estate, in Dorsetshire or Devonshire, as I dare not think of ever visiting Scotland, yet much less of ever residing there; and Leven House is not susceptible of much embellishment. Montrose Castle is a noble abode, and greatly improved, I understand, since I left England; but I am resolved to fix my tent in the West, else there is a noble estate now upon sale in Staffordshire, the rent-roll between six and seven thousand a-year; but I should not care were I to meet with one which brought in double or treble that sum, as land is always increasing in value."

The Marquis listened and approved of all his intentions, and promised to accompany him on Monday, to see the boasted villa; but soon took his leave, as upholsterers,

sterers, cabinet-makers, &c. &c. were all coming by appointment, to receive his orders, and to assist in relieving him from a part of his boasted riches: convinced, therefore, that he would be fully employed during the two following days, our hero resolved not to break in upon the amusing occupation he had allotted himself, till he reflected, that as the General was such an invalid, he must send, if he did not call to inquire after his health; and as he was sure of finding him at home, he dropped in both evenings, merely to enquire how he did, he told Dr. Campbell; and certainly he was amused, while listening to the plans the General was laying for the future, when, considering his state of health and hectic cough, he did not suppose there was an office in London that would have insured his life for a twelvemonth.

On the Sunday, however, he drove into Arlington-street, in a very elegant new coach, and certainly appeared in both better health and spirits than he had done since his

his arrival in England. The Marquis and Marchioness of Derwent, and every other member of the Albany family, had preceded him thither; and our hero, having introduced him and his lovely daughter, who, like Rosalie, was dressed with infinite taste and simplicity, to every one present, the General addressed some very flattering compliments to the Marchioness; but seemed infinitely prepossessed in favour of Lady Algernon, as she noticed his daughter with even maternal kindness, and placed her between her and Rosalie.

Algernon, like Cymon of old, gazed at the lovely East Indian, and sincerely wished he stood in his brother's shoes, to speak in the language of his thoughts. While Lord Dunluce thought her too tame even to lead the fashion, still he felt that he could have made up his mind to lead her to the altar, though he feared the old General would prove a horrid bore, and might be even more troublesome than the Earl.

Mere general discourse passed before

dinner, the nabob declaring that he should not have recollected Lord Algernon, though he remembered having seen him a fine youth before he went abroad, appearing to consider his son as a mere boy still; enquiring whether he was at Cambridge or Oxford?

"He had finished his education at the former," he replied.

"The General appears to doubt the truth of that assertion," rejoined Lord Derwent; "as, like myself, he thinks you still a school-boy."

"Grandfathers are privileged people," was the retort, which obliged the nabob to have recourse to his snuff-box, and even extorted a smile from Lady Winifred.—Wishing, however, to change the subject, she asked the General whether he should have supposed Lord Endermay and Mr. Albany were brothers?

"I cannot say I should, Madam, as I never saw two people less alike; nor do I think Mr. Albany at all resembles his sister."

"He

"He takes after the Langhton family, I understand," said Lord Derwent; "and it is a pity they did not make a monk of him," he would have added, had he not feared to offend the master of the house.

The dinner was, it may be supposed, sumptuous in the extreme, as it was the first time our hero had treated many of the guests assembled; and as the Earl and Lady Algernon assisted him and Dr. Campbell in doing the honours, every thing went off extremely well. The General had not made such a meal since he left Calcutta, he said, when the desert was placed upon the table; and Algernon secretly wished his grandfather Langhton kept an equally good table, as he was now feelingly convinced, he told Belthorpe, that his brother knew what good living was, and was not saving, when his own gratification was concerned.

The priest was more grateful for the politeness he had received from the young Peer, and much less inclined to criticise

his chusing to treat his family as became his rank, since the Marquis had made a point of his joining this family party at dinner, not feeling inclined to make any distinctions between him and his pupil, nor conceiving that the one was at all nearer related to him than the other.

After tea, the Marquis, who had sent for Miss Albany's harp the preceding evening, requested she would favour his guests with a specimen of her skill. She did as he desired; but having no voice, could only treat them with a rondeau. Perceiving that Zara dreaded being called upon, he intreated the Marchioness of Derwent would favour the company. She did not play the harp, but readily sat down to a grand piano; and as she had not a bad voice, she did justice to a song of Braham's. Now before marriage, the Marquis had been delighted with her taste and execution; but as he was really a judge, he had soon discovered that her knowledge of music was very circumscribed, and that she merely,

merely, school-girl like, played and sung a few popular ballads, as Rosalie far surpassed her, having taken lessons with her cousin since her arrival in town; and the old Marquis was purposely very lavish of his plaudits. At last it came to Miss Umfreville's turn, who even surpassed her father's expectations, unreasonable as they always were, upon this occasion, as she had a most powerful melodious voice, which had been very highly cultivated, an excellent ear, and a degree of taste and feeling, which greatly increased the effect of her almost divine harmony; and she had taken daily lessons since her arrival in town; so fearful was her father of her losing the degree of perfection she had attained; and her exertions were rewarded by the applause of every one present, though he who felt her superiority the most forcibly, said the least.

The Marquis of Derwent, more than ever ashamed of his late idol, who could not even dispute the palm of beauty with the

East Indian, sincerely wished he had not been in such a hurry, as he had the vanity to suppose that his star, in addition to his title, might have made an equally favourable impression upon the fair Zara: but tyrannical as he was, in most respects, her father could not have doomed her to such a fate, as he wished her eldest son, as well as her husband, to rank among the first nobles of the land; therefore he would have ridiculed the idea of uniting her to a grandfather. Being an invalid, he was the first to retire, after hoping he should soon have the advantage of seeing every one present at Umfreville Lodge, as he had named his villa, very soon—he expected to remove thither in the course of a week or ten days —as our hero saw Miss Umfreville to the carriage, he intreated he would do him the favour of looking in upon him the next day, since, if he could make it convenient, he wished him to accompany him to this said Lodge, as he wanted to have his opinion upon the improvements then making.

Malcolm

Malcolm readily promised to oblige him, though he regretted to see a man with more than one foot in the grave, so anxious to display his taste for magnificence, and to convince the world that he had made an immense fortune in India;—but as he thought he ought to be treated like a spoiled child, and he wished, upon his daughter's account, to keep him in a good humour, he had acceded to his wishes. Upon his return to his company, he found them all unanimous in their praise of the lovely Zara, even the Marchioness thinking it necessary to join in her encomiums. As the Marquis and she were engaged to a private concert at a very fashionable lady's of his Lordship's acquaintance, they soon departed; Belthorpe and his pupil had made their exit to attend evening service, we must suppose, immediately after dinner. The remaining party readily agreed to stay supper; and both the Earl, Countess, and Lady Winifred, seriously recommended the fair East

Indian to the master of the house, all declaring they felt the sincerest regard for her, and the greatest pity, since she had not only her father's arbitrary bad temper to contend with, but was also subjected to the tyranny and caprice of the designing woman she termed her governess, who had felt herself half offended, Zara had told Rosalie, who repeated what she had said, at not having been invited to accompany her into Arlington-street, which had induced the General to speak to her with more severity than he had ever done before, and they had left her completely humbled, though she made no doubt of her being reinstated in her father's good graces as soon as they returned home; nor was she mistaken, as she had prepared some of his favourite restoratives for his supper, and had the satisfaction of hearing him declare he did not know what he should do without her.

Now, though our hero felt that he could have existed without Miss Umfreville, he retired

retired to rest, very much inclined to rescue her from her present state of thraldom. He had never seen any woman whom he could have preferred, and she had only to be seen to be admired: he was therefore punctual to his appointment with the General, who was still at breakfast, not having had a very good night, which had induced him to indulge in bed longer than he had intended; and it may be supposed he was not in one of his best tempers. Zara, the Marquis fancied, had been in tears, though she received him with visible pleasure, and smiled in return to his compliments; but he saw she was far from happy, which did not lessen the interest she had inspired.

Between twelve and one he set out with the nabob, in his post-chaise and four; and when they were upon the move, the former gave his opinion very candidly respecting the party he had met the day before. The Earl and Countess of Algernon were an honour to their rank, and to the British Peerage. Their son seemed to take very

much after his grandfather, who had once been a great coxcomb, in point of appearance, and, like him, he did not seem deficient in small-talk.

Lady Winifred reminded him of one of the old dames in Gray's long story; her ward had nothing but her money, and relationship to the Albany family, to recommend her to any man's notice; and as for the Marchioness of Derwent, he had been very near expressing his surprise, when introduced to her, so great was his disappointment. She was certainly handsome, that he agreed; but her manners exactly resembled those of some of the giddy flirts who came to India, in search of a husband; and, like them, he made no doubt of her bringing her *caro sposo* to repentance.—The Marquis must have been a bold man, to have ventured upon such an unbroken tit.

"Probably he fancied his future happiness depended upon the fair lady, General," replied our hero.

"Future happiness at his time of life!" retorted the nabob; "we old men may have our fancies; and while a little superfluous cash will satisfy our desires, why 'tis all very well; but matrimony, at our time of life, is the d-v-l."

"The Marquis of Derwent was not of that opinion, though I believe he has been very much blamed; but I make no doubt the lady was cruel; and he was too deeply smitten not to come into her terms."

"More fool he; for if he had but stood out, I dare say he might have had her upon his own. No woman shall ever render me their dupe. Glover is a very good nurse, and has done her duty by my daughter, and may perhaps fancy, as she is not deficient in vanity, that I may, ere long, make her my wife; but she never was more mistaken; her situation in my family, has always prevented me from endeavouring to make her my mistress; and my pride will prevent me from ever making her my wife. My daughter shall never have it to say, that I dis-

I disgraced her mother's memory, by marrying her governess, whose temper is nearly as bad as my own, I well know, though she has not ill health to plead as an excuse; therefore she would soon drive me mad, if I gave her a legal right to torment me.

"Lady Algernon has been polite enough to offer to introduce Zara into the world; but I dread her mixing with the high-bred dames of the present day, and exposing her to the gaze of the fine men of fashion, who, though they affect to overlook the sex, would be very civil to her, for the sake of my rupees. I may be reckoned a severe father; but, in my opinion, girls ought to be kept in a tight rein before marriage. Some people argue, that my mode of government leads the chits to elope with the first fellow who makes the proposal to them. I have a better opinion of Zara's principles; and I know, besides, that she is very much attached to me. At all events, I chuse to abide by the old adage—safe bind, and I will forgive any lover

lover that outwits me, while she remains under my own eye; but as I cannot accompany her into public, she must be content to spend her evenings at home, till I can place her under the protection of a husband of my own chusing."

"Then what say you to placing her under mine?" resumed our hero, who was drawn on, rather insensibly, thus to come to the point at once.

The General started, turned his head, and looking his companion full in the face, exclaimed—"What were you saying?"

The Marquis, who was now more collected, repeated his words.—"My dear fellow," was the reply, seizing his hand while speaking, "there is not a man in the world upon whom I would so soon bestow her hand, if that is what you mean."

"You have perfectly understood me, General; since, though I have seen but little of Miss Umfreville, that little has rendered me her sincere admirer. My family are no less prepossessed in her favour;—

and

and I am sure that I am insuring my future happiness, by requesting your permission to address her as a lover, admitting I have been fortunate enough to make an equally favourable impression upon her, as I have not yet ventured to declare my regard for her to any one besides yourself."

The General pressed the hand he held more fervently than before, thanking our hero for his candour, and assuring him, that, at his death, he should inherit all he was worth, a few trifling legacies excepted; and he would immediately make over fifteen thousand a-year to him, and leave the settlements entirely to his discretion.—"As to Zara," he continued, "she has not seen you with indifference; she must have been a fool if she had; and I am convinced she will never give you reason to repent of your choice, as she is the counterpart of her mother, who would, had I allowed her to do so, have rendered me the happiest of men; but I know I am too overbearing; and the continual indulgence I have met with,

with, has not tended to correct an error, which has grown with my growth, and strengthened with my strength, or rather with my weakness. But now do tell me, my dear fellow, have not you long known that I had set my heart upon seeing my girl Marchioness of Endermay?"

"I give you my honour, my late grandfather never mentioned your wishes to me. When your last letter to him fell into my hands, I presumed you had proposed to unite the families still more closely; and Dr. Campbell entered into a few explanations, which convinced me I had not been mistaken; but had I not found my heart interested in the success of my suit, neither your wishes, Sir, your daughter's beauty, nor her fortune, would have induced me to have made proposals for her."

"Spoken like your grandfather, who argued nearly to the same effect, when he declared himself in favour of my sister;—he liked the woman, not her money, though

though she brought him a noble fortune, and he made her an excellent husband.—I only wish I was as sure of going to Heaven, as that he is now enjoying the reward of his virtuous conduct here below. You were his idol, Marquis; and he soon taught me to wish we might hereafter be nearer related; and I believe I should have been ready to hang myself, had not matters turned out according to my hopes, particularly after I had seen you."

Their arrival at the villa put a check to the nabob's raptures, as he was now all anxiety to display its beauties to its future owner. At least fifty men were already at work in and about the house, putting every thing in order; carpenters, plasterers, masons, upholsterers, smiths, gardeners, &c. merely to render it habitable, the General said, as he did not mean to have it painted before the middle of summer, when he meant to go to Weymouth for a couple of months; rather crawling than walking over the really spacious mansion,

sion, which he styled a mere box; while the Marquis thought it very probable that he might be inclosed in a much smaller box before half his projected improvements were finished, as he now displayed the surveyor's plans, and those of a celebrated landscape-gardener; then pointed out where he proposed to erect a conservatory, or winter garden, adjoining the library; and finally told his companion how the various apartments were to be furnished, as he had resolved to change every bed and chair which he had so recently purchased, as they were ill chosen, and by no means elegant; and Mr. O—— had promised, that every article which he had chosen should be put up without delay.

Having, however, seen every thing worthy notice, either in the house or grounds, the General proposed their returning to town, being all impatience to communicate his happy prospects to his daughter and Glover; and during their drive back, the

Marquis

Marquis was extremely diverted by the sudden transitions in his conversation, from his villa to his daughter, as both were now uppermost in his mind; and he was as eager to complete the one, as to bestow the other upon our hero, whom he set down in Welbeck-street, after making him promise to drink his tea in Harley-street, by which time he should have prepared Zara to receive him as her future husband.

END OF VOL. III.

Lane, Darling, and Co. Leadenhall-Street.

3 0112 051365077